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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION HOLDS NEW YORK LOVES FILM ROADSHOW IN BUFFALO

Everything you wanted to know about filming in New York but were afraid to ask

The Governor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development held a New York Loves Film Production Roadshow at WNED studios in Buffalo on Monday. Hosted by the Buffalo Niagara Film Office, the workshop featured a 60-minute face-to-face conversation with filmmakers, production support, small business owners, post production providers and New York State government representatives discussing film production practices and issues across the state.

"The latest effort by Governor Cuomo and the entire team to promote film and television in New York State, the New York Loves Film Production Roadshow was met with interest and enthusiasm by local filmmakers in Woodstock earlier this month," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "The workshops' one-on-one approach, where filmmakers meet with state representatives to learn about film production in the state, is a testament to our commitment to the industry and its growth."

"The state's new interactive approach puts the tools and answers filmmakers need at their fingertips, giving them the support they need and showing New York State's commitment to film projects, both large and small," said Gigi Semone, Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Motion Picture and Television Development. "These workshops not only strengthen the connection between the state and filmmakers, but make the process more streamlined. The individual attention given to filmmakers allows us to focus on their individual needs, as every project has different needs and challenges and we want to emphasize the accessibility and resources available to all."

"Buffalo has a really vibrant and expanding film community," said Buffalo Film Commissioner Tim Clark. "So it was really great to have the team from the New York State film office here sitting down to talk with these local filmmakers and film companies. It was a substantive discussion covering a lot of ground. I think everybody not only appreciated the opportunity to highlight the talent and resources available in Buffalo but to discuss the benefits of the New York State film tax credit program."

The more than two dozen workshop attendees ranged from first-time filmmakers to veteran producers and the participants' reception was enormously positive.

"I saw a lot of new people and a lot of older experienced people around the table today," said Jim Gribbins, owner of Gribbins Films. "This kind of workshop offers those of us working in the Buffalo film community a great forum to come together to share ideas and talk about challenges with one another and to hear from the New York State film office about the programs and policies they are working on to help us build the business here in Buffalo."

"The New York State film tax credits allow me to continue to use Buffalo as a canvas," said producer/director Peter McGinnis. They are incredibly important to me as a filmmaker and I would not be able to keep making films here without them. This workshop afforded an interesting exchange of ideas of how to continue to support indigenous filmmakers and put that credit to use."

The New York Loves Film Production Roadshow series was a big hit at its debut in Woodstock and additional workshops will be scheduled in upcoming months.

Empire State Development (ESD) is New York's chief economic development agency (www.esd.ny.gov). The mission of ESD is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, ESD strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. ESD is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov and www.esd.ny.gov.

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