



'The Magnificent Seven' rides again

By Adrian Gomez | Assistant Arts Editor

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A remake of the 1960 Western "The Magnificent Seven," above, will be filmed in New Mexico. (Courtesy of Turner Entertainment)

Some Hollywood heavy hitters – seven of them – are coming to the Land of Enchantment.

Denzel Washington is returning to film "The Magnificent Seven" along with Chris Pratt, Cam Gigandet, Matt Bomer, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onofrio, Byung-hun Lee and Peter Sarsgaard.

This version of the classic follows the story of seven outlaws and gunslingers who band together to defend people from a killer who owns most of their town. It is generally based on the 1960 motion picture of the same name, which starred Steve McQueen, Yul Brynner, Eli Wallach and Charles Bronson.

The film is another version of the cult classic "The Seven Samurai." Washington and Hawke have both filmed in New Mexico and were a powerful pair in the good cop, bad cop hit "Training Day."

Clockwise from left, Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Chris Pratt and Matt Bomer will star in "The Magnificent Seven," which will be filmed in New Mexico.



According to the New Mexico Film Office, the production will employ about 275 New Mexico crew members, nine New Mexico actors and about 60 New Mexico background talents. The production will film at locations throughout the state.

"New Mexico is the perfect backdrop for this film, and our facilities, crew and talent will help this incredible lineup of stars tell a great Western story," said Nick Maniatis, New Mexico Film Office director.

The film will be directed by Antoine Fuqua, who recently was at the helm of "Southpaw" and "The Equalizer."

The production begins filming Wednesday at **Santa Fe Studios** and is looking for men, women and children with a "Western look" for background casting. A casting call is scheduled for Saturday at the Wild West Fest in Old Galisteo. It will run from 3 to 9 p.m.

Casting directors will also be on hand to take photos of potential extras to be considered for this and other New Mexico productions. Event entry is free for hopefuls who arrive in their cowboy or cowgirl finest. Headshots and casting registration sessions will be available throughout the day.

More information can be found at wildwestfestinoldgalisteo.eventbrite.com.