



ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL



NM ranked as one of '8 Hotspots' for film

By Adrian Gomez | Journal Arts and Entertainment Editor
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New Mexico continues to enchant filmmakers and productions.

The state was named as one of the "8 Hotspots" for shooting in the United States or Canada by *the Hollywood Reporter*. The list was based on where to get the best film incentives.

The trade magazine also mentioned New York, California, Louisiana, Illinois, Georgia, Ontario and British Columbia.

"Six states and two Canadian provinces are aggressively luring productions," the article said.

"This is more evidence that our industry here is vibrant, productive and notable among industry insiders," said Nick Maniatis, New Mexico State Film Office director. "New Mexico continues to rank high among the choices that film productions consider when looking for the best destinations to bring their business."

Since taking over the film office, Maniatis' goal is to attract all types of film productions to the state — especially TV series.

He has said TV productions tend to stay in the state longer, which help create more jobs.

The article stated since New Mexico passed incentives 15 years ago, its film and TV infrastructure has grown significantly.

The state currently offers a 25 percent credit for film and 30 percent for TV and four soundstage facilities: two in Albuquerque — Albuquerque Studios and I-25 Studios — and two in Santa Fe — **Santa Fe Studios** and Garson Studios.

"In 2016, the program resulted in \$397 million in direct in-state spending, including on the Oscar-nominated film *'Hell or High Water,'* in addition to X-Men flick *'Logan,'* Netflix's *'Longmire'* and AMC's *'Better Call Saul,'* " the article stated.

The New Mexico Film Office will be in Burbank, Calif. this weekend at the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI) Locations, Global Production and Finance Conference.

The show is the premier marketplace connecting commercial, film and television professionals to global production locations and film funding resources in Los Angeles, the world's largest production center.

New Mexico is a leading player among the more than 80 AFCI Film Commission Members & service industry partners exhibiting from more than 30 countries.