

## Governor Ted Kulongoski



## Press Release

July 14, 2004

### Governor Kulongoski Lures Feature Film Production

Oregon film crews and local vendors are currently working on a feature film entitled "Nearing Grace" thanks to an incentive offered by the State of Oregon to compete with production savings offered in Canada. Governor Ted Kulongoski approved the use of Strategic Reserve Funds to defray production costs to recruit the film and its production jobs to Oregon.

The Oregon Film & Video Office has been providing location and logistical assistance to the film for nearly a year, and applied for the incentive through the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department.

"Building the film industry in Oregon is a major part of my economic development agenda," said Governor Kulongoski. "Film production means millions of dollars in direct spending, increased tourism, and high paying jobs. I am determined to make Oregon competitive with Canada and other states for this business. We'll do that through the creation of incentive programs that will help attract new production to Oregon."

"Nearing Grace" is a coming of age drama that stars Gregory Smith, ("Everwood," "A Wrinkle in Time," "The Patriot") David Morse, ("The Green Mile," "Contact," "The Rock") Jordana Brewster, ("The Fast and the Furious," "As the World Turns," "All My Children") and Ashley Johnson ("What Women Want," "Growing Pains One and Two," "The Failures") It is the story of an eccentric high school senior, who is deeply affected by the death of his mother and is searching for meaning while dealing with his family and an awkward love triangle.

Susan Johnson and Rick Rosenthal of Whitewater Films are producing "Nearing Grace," with Rosenthal also directing. They will be shooting for five weeks in and around the Portland area. The script was written by Jacob Estes.

Producer Susan Johnson says, "We appreciate the Governor's incentive offer to help us to film in Oregon. While this was our first choice for the production on a creative basis, like any business it's always the bottom line that makes the difference. We're thrilled to be back in Oregon again and look forward to a continued great relationship."

This is the second time Whitewater has come to Oregon to film. Last summer the company shot "Mean Creek," starring Rory Culkin, in Clackamas County. "Mean Creek" was a critical favorite at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France and the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Paramount Classics is releasing the film later this month.

"Nearing Grace" is the third film recruited to Oregon with an incentive offer. The State is in the process of developing a package of formal incentive programs to bring in more film production jobs.

Oregon has hosted five other feature film productions this year, including Dreamworks' "The Ring II," and independent films "Donut Hole," "Caught in the Act," "Sisters," and "Are We There Yet."

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