

## 'Grace' to shoot in Oregon

Staff, news services

July 16, 2004

PORTLAND — Gov. Ted Kulongoski announced Wednesday that a coming-of-age movie will be made in Oregon.

"Nearing Grace" is about a high school senior who is searching for meaning after the death of his mother. He also is dealing with a love triangle. It stars Gregory Smith, David Morse and Jordana Brewster.

Producers decided to shoot in the Portland area after receiving an economic incentive from the state, which has been competing for movie business with Canada. Provincial and federal government breaks in Canada have long enticed movie executives to take their productions north.

"Building the film industry in Oregon is a major part of my economic development agenda," said Gov. 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."

Susan Johnson and Rick Rosenthal of Whitewater Films are producing the film, with Rosenthal directing. Shooting will last five weeks.

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. Paramount Classics is releasing the movie later this month.

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."