

## Ohio: The Hollywood of the Midwest

Not all movies are made in Hollywood. Based on the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit – an incentive program that makes filming in the Buckeye State very affordable – more movies are coming to Ohio, and each needs to find the right locations. Here at FilmDayton, we help productions find the places and properties, like yours, that are ideal for shooting a film.



Over the past few years, many productions have contacted the Ohio Film Office and FilmDayton about shooting in Ohio. Feature films, made-for-television movies and mini-series have a large budget and can employ around 100 people. Shooting schedules average around three months and a location shot may take just a few days. Television episodes and commercials are often under more strict time restraints and are filmed in a couple of days with limited locations and smaller crews. Also, here in Dayton there are film students breaking into the business and creating their own short films that go on to international film festivals. What they all have in common is the need to find the right location to set the scene.

### SHOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING A FILM LOCATION?

#### Benefits

- The production may cover needed improvements like mending existing cracks, fresh paint or new landscaping.
- The area economy will get a boost with locals being hired and out-of-town cast and crew spending money at area hotels, restaurants, and stores. Plus, you will likely receive a fee for the use of your property.
- Seeing behind-the-scenes of a production is an entertaining and educational opportunity.
- Everything is negotiable. Some projects have specific time/date needs, but other projects can work around your schedule if they want to use your property.
- Promotion of property through a locations database can encourage other filmmakers, television, and commercial producers to discover your property.

#### Challenges

- You may be asked to fully or partially close your property to the public (compensated with the location fee).
- Inconveniences during filming could include parking; disruptions to business, family, neighbors; production's use of electricity, water, etc.
- The unexpected must be expected: weather, schedule changes, rewrites, illnesses, and equipment breakdown all can affect the plans to film on your property.

## COME WITH QUESTIONS

If a company wants to use your property, here are some preliminary questions to ask:

- What type of production is it (commercial, TV, feature)?
- What is the name of the production company and what is the title of production?
- Who will be the contact person at the production company?
- How many shooting days will there be? Will there be nights, days or both?
- What will the hours of shooting be?
- Will there be any set dressing/prep days?
- Can they provide a description of activities (or the pages of the script) for the shoot?
- How many people and vehicles will there be?
- Are there any pyrotechnics or stunts?

## SOME HINTS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

Production companies are used to being in on other people's property and they do their best to treat it with respect. Still, it's best to remove precious items you want to protect.

As expected, with many people walking in and out (and rolling heavy equipment), the majority of the dirt ends up on the floors. Productions typically will set rugs down to protect your floors.

When filming is complete the company will leave everything as they found it. But accidents may happen; walk through with your contact before they leave to verify nothing is damaged.

If an accident does happen, film companies are adequately insured for property and personal damage and injury. Most insurance policies for filming on location cover liability up to \$1 million. Before they begin shooting, you'll want to be named as an "additional insured" and to ensure that the policy covers the planned activities and the correct dates. Get a copy of the company's insurance policy, with these provisions, prior to filming.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Get listed with FilmDayton.** You can be on the public locations database (linked to the Ohio Film Office for production companies to see) or on a privately accessed location database visible only to the staff at FilmDayton.

The database isn't a guarantee that you'll get film interest nor does it mean that you'll accept any film. Being listed only means you're willing to entertain offers from production companies.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact FilmDayton's Executive Director Megan Cooper to learn more. 937-554-0031 or [mcooper@filmdayton.com](mailto:mcooper@filmdayton.com).

*Help FilmDayton demonstrate to the film industry that our region is ready for its close-up. List your property today!*