



# CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,  
OK 73069

Thursday, February 02, 2023 at 4:00 PM

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## AGENDA

*It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, retaliation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.*

### CALL TO ORDER

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA TO BECOME A CERTIFIED FILM FRIENDLY CITY.

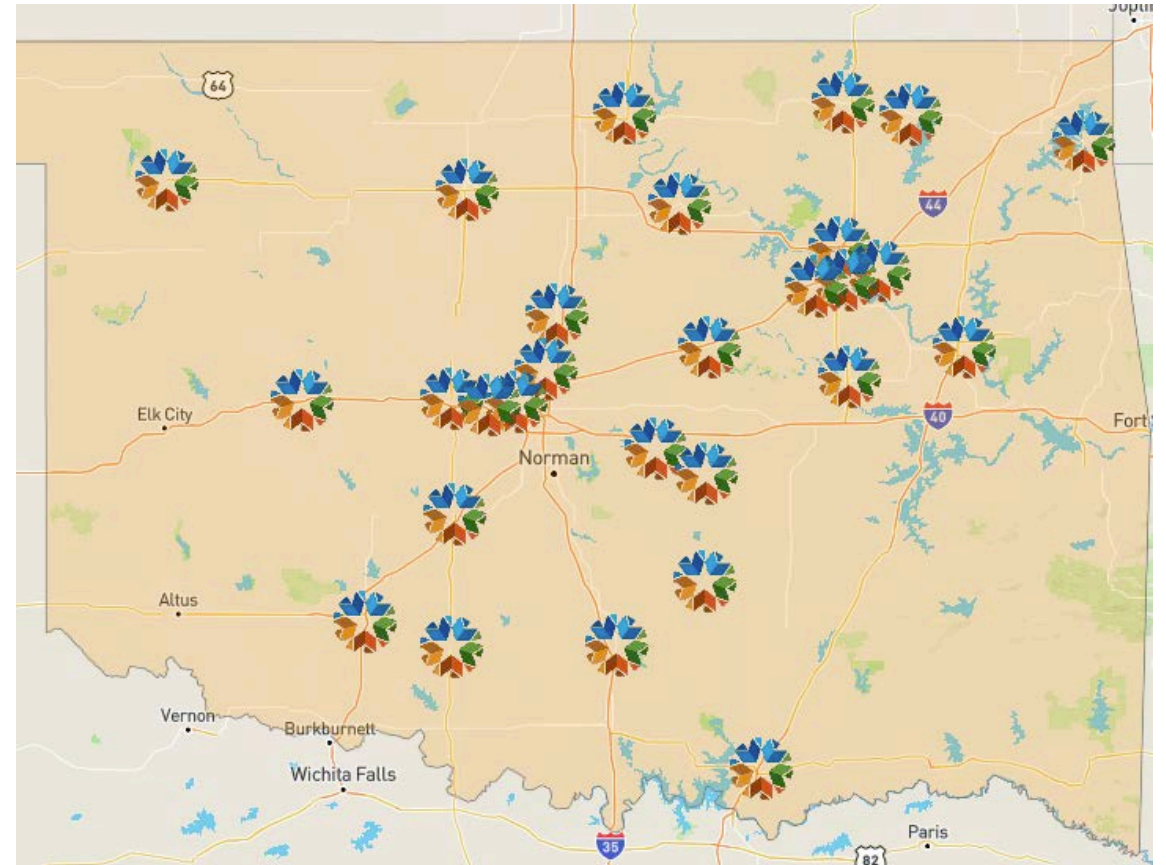
### ADJOURNMENT

# GETTING NORMAN CERTIFIED AS FILM FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Item 1.

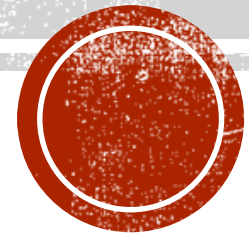


**OKLAHOMA**  
Film + Music



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**IN 2023, THERE WILL BE 18 MADE-IN-  
OKLAHOMA FILMS RELEASED**



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# 18 OKLAHOMA-MADE MOVIES AND TV SHOWS TO LOOK FOR IN 2023



**Brandy McDonnell**  
The Oklahoman  
USA TODAY NETWORK

From a veritable land rush of productions during the COVID-19 pandemic to the state legislature's passage of a new, larger film incentive in 2021, industry watchers have been toasting a growing influx of made-in-Oklahoma movies and television series for the past few years.

But 2023 might just prove the breakthrough year when savvy movie and TV fans get to appreciate the Sooner State's emergence as a filming destination.

The dates for some of them are still to be announced, but here are 18 Oklahoma-made movies and TV shows to look out for in 2023.

## 1. 'Out of Exile'

**When and where to see it:** Jan. 20 in select theaters and on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Vudu and more.

Named the Best Oklahoma Feature of the 2022 deadCenter Film Festival, "Out of Exile" follows Gabriel Russell (Shawnee actor Adam Hampton), a recently paroled thief trying to stay out of trouble and rebuild a relationship with his estranged daughter (Hayley McFarland), Choctaw native (and one-time Disney Channel star) Ryan Merriman plays the FBI agent hunting Gabriel and his crew after a botched armored car robbery.

Members of the primarily Oklahoma cast and crew will participate in Q&As after the 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20 showing at Tulsa's Circle Cinema and after the 6:55 p.m. Jan. 21 showing at OKC's Harkins Bricktown 16.

## 2. 'Fancy Dance'

**When and where to see it:** Premiering Jan. 20 at Sundance, with other release plans TBA.

After her sister's disappearance, a Native American hustler ("Killers of the Flower Moon" star Lily Gladstone, who's Blackfoot and Nez Perce) scrapping by on the Seneca-Cayuga Reservation in Oklahoma kidnaps her niece (Isabel Dery-Olson) from the girl's white grandparents and sets out for a powwow in an effort to keep what is left of her family intact.

## 3. 'Bad Press'

**When and where to see it:** Premiering Jan. 22 at Sundance, with further release plans TBA.

Angel Elera, a Milwaukee Media reporter based in Okmulgee, fights for truth and transparency after the Muscogee Nation starts censoring its free press in this documentary, directed by Muscogee filmmaker Rebecca Landberry-Baker.



From top: "Reservation Dogs" PROVIDED IMAGE; Documentary "Bad Press" PROVIDED IMAGE; Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" APPLE STUDIOS VIA OSAGE NEWS GETTY IMAGES

## 4. 'Little Dixie'

**When and where to see it:** Feb. 3 in select theaters, on digital and on demand.

After filming his newly released horror movie "Candy Land" in Montana, prolific Tulsa writer-director John Swab returned home to lens his upcoming crime drama. In Tulsa, Catons, Sand Springs and Owasso.

When a deal goes wrong between a corrupt governor (Eric Dane, "Euphoria") and a ruthless drug lord, ex-special forces operative Doc (Frank Grillo, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier") gets caught in the crosshairs. Doc must take down the cartel and do whatever it takes to protect the only good thing in his life: his young daughter, Little Dixie.

## 5. 'One Day as a Lion'

**When and where to see it:** TBA. Why release two movies in one year when you can release three? Lionsgate is expected to debut sometime in 2023 this crime drama that Swab directed last year in his home state. Scott Caan ("Ocean's Eleven") wrote the script and plays the lead role of Jackie Powers, a beleaguered gangster determined to prevent his son from following him into a life of crime.

## 6. 'The Adventures of Jurassic Pet 2: The Lost Secret'

**When and where to see it:** Feb. 28 on digital, on demand and on DVD. Local filmmakers Ryan Belgrave and Chris Host return with another family-

guard's 2019 fantasy.

## 7. 'What Rhymes with Reason'

**When and where to see it:** TBA. While helming his second feature, OKC filmmaker Kyle William Roberts ("The Posthuman Project") took his cast and crew all over his home state, from Turner Falls and Red Rock Canyon to Jones High School and Green Pastures Studio near Spencer.

The "faith-adjacent" teen adventure follows Jesse Brandt (Gavin Griffith, "The Boys"), a high-school senior who tumbles into the darkness of depression after a tragedy. In an attempt to find meaning and direction, Jesse and his friends embark on a quest to find a legendary landmark hidden in the Oklahoma wilderness.

## 8. 'Killers of the Flower Moon'

**When and where to see it:** TBA in theaters and on Apple TV+.

Martin Scorsese spent much of 2021 in Oklahoma working on his anticipated adaptation of the David Grann's best-selling nonfiction book "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI." The cinema lion's \$200 million Apple Studios epic chronicling the slayings of Osage Nation citizens in 1920s Oklahoma, after an oil boom made them the richest people per capita in the world, is believed to be the biggest movie production ever undertaken in the Sooner State.

## 9. 'Reservation Dogs' Season 3

**When and where to see it:** TBA on Hulu.

With its second season, the FX series — co-created and executive produced by Oscar-winning New Zealand filmmaker Taika Waititi ("Thor: Love and Thunder"), who is of Maori ancestry, and Tulsa-based showrunner and moviemaker Sterlin Harjo ("Backing Water"), who is Seminole and Muscogee — appeared on best TV shows of 2022 lists from USA Today, The New York Times, Rolling Stone and more.

With Season 3 promised in 2023, it will be interesting to see where Harjo and Co. take the beloved "Reservation Dogs" after last year's tearjerking sophomore season finale.

## 10. 'Reagan'

**When and where to see it:** TBA. The biographical drama stars two-time Golden Globe nominee Dennis Quaid ("I Can Only Imagine") as Ronald Reagan, Golden Globe nominee Penelope Ann Miller ("The President") as Nancy Reagan and Oscar winner Jon Voight ("Deliverance") as a fictional KGB agent who trails Reagan throughout his political career.

## McDonnell

Continued from Page 10A

## 11. 'The Awkward Stage'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

After making an auspicious debut last year with the drama "Tenkiller," husband-and-wife Oklahoma filmmakers Jeremy and Kara Choate are reteaming with family, friends and breakout OKC sludge metal band Chat Pile for their "fever dream" sophomore feature. Made in a now-demolished Harrah school building, the adolescent saga centers on a student named Eugene who falls in love with a sculpture of his school's founder.

## 12. 'Country Gold'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

Set in 1994, it's a fantastical country music comedy in which a despondent George Jones (OKC actor Ben Hall) decides to be cryogenically frozen. Jones invites an up-and-coming Sooner State star named Troyal Brax (Mickay Reece) to go out on the town with him in Nashville before the legend is literally frozen in time.

## 13. 'Unexpected'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

A 2022 Nashville Film Festival selection, the offbeat comedy follows a music critic named Bob (Joseph Mazzello, "Jurassic Park"), who is out of a job, addicted to Zoloft and trying to wrangle the menagerie of animals that his wife Amy (Anna Camp, "Pitch Perfect") has accumulated. The couple must decide if adopting a baby will cure their existential angst — or if they should just rescue another duck.

## 14. 'Chicken House'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

After bowing her promising feature film directorial debut "She's the Eldest" at deadCenter 2020, busy OKC actor and helmer Cate Jones returned to the state's largest film festival in 2022 with her follow-up, "Chicken House."

The subversive comedy centers on three small-town actresses who take in a mysterious new roommate from Los Angeles (Jones), who shakes up their lives as well as the lives of two Latter Days Saints and a poltergeist.

## 15. 'Cricket's Requiem'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

Skye Dakota Turner, who played the young Aretha Franklin in the 2023 biopic "Respect," stars as Cricket Sullivan, an introverted teen drawn to churches where she can steal candles for her sick mother. Caught in the act by a grieving choir director and assigned to polish one church's pews as penance, she finds an unlikely friendship that helps her unlock her true gift to the world.

## 16. 'I Am a Man: The True Story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear'

**When and where to see it:** Possibly late 2023 or early 2024.

With formal approval from the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, the historical drama — an early recipient of the Cherokee Nation Film Incentive — will depict the 1879 landmark trial of Standing Bear v. the United States of America, which helped establish the rights for all Native Americans to be considered human beings under U.S. law.

## 17. 'Tulsa King' Season 2

**When and where to see it:** Possibly late 2023 or early 2024 on Paramount+.

Even before the first season ended on a cliffhanger, the freshman series created by "Yellowstone" mastermind Taylor Sheridan and starring three-time Oscar nominee Sylvester Stallone proved popular enough on Paramount+ to earn a speedy renewal for its sophomore season.

While Season 1 of the modern-day gangster-Western mashup was filmed primarily in the Sooner State — and is considered the biggest scripted TV series to ever film in Oklahoma — it's unclear at this point when and where production on Season 2 will begin.

## 18. 'The Unbreakable Boy'

**When and where to see it:** TBA.

The family drama centers on Austin (Jacob Laval) who was born with a rare brittle-bone disease and autism. With his joyous perspective, Austin transforms everyone around him, especially his dad (Zachary Levi).

The inspirational film was originally slated for spring 2022 theatrical release before distributor Lionsgate removed it from last year's calendar. Will we see the film in 2023? Time will tell.

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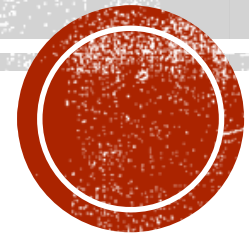
- Actually, the bigger question is, "Why not Norman?"

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# FILMED IN OKLAHOMA ACT OF 2021

Item 1.

- ⑩ In May of 2021, the Filmed in Oklahoma Act of 2021 was signed by Governor Kevin Stitt. This law created a new rebate program and raised the annual cap from \$8 million to \$30 million.
- ⑩ The new rebate program is designed with a base of up to 20% and several opportunities for film projects to receive rebate percentage uplifts up to 38% by meeting different criteria designed to promote economic impact across the state and foster infrastructure and workforce development.



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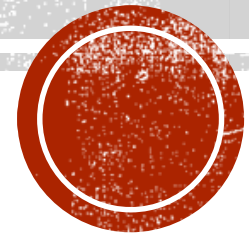
# FY21 ECONOMIC IMPACT

Item 1.

11,004 local career opportunities were created with a direct fiscal impact of \$170.4 million from 32 film and television productions using the state's incentive program

The impact of Oklahoma's film and television industry has been recognized by *MovieMaker* Magazine by ranking Oklahoma City No. 13 in its top 25 list of big cities and Tulsa as No. 5 in its top 10 list of small cities/towns for the Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker in 2022

Source: <https://okfilmmusic.org/economicimpact>





## Oklahoma Film Friendly Certified Communities

Our new Oklahoma Film Friendly Community certification program helps communities develop the necessary permits and protocol to address film and television production in their areas.

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# PAST NORMAN PRODUCTIONS

Item 1.

## Films:

Turkey Bowl

Deadly Misconduct

Rise and Walk: The Dennis Byrd Story

Full Out 2: You Got This

College Professor Obsession (partially)

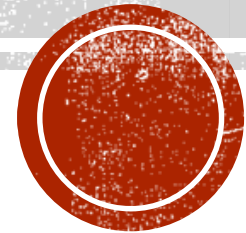
Painted Woman (partially)

Twister (partially)

## Television:

House Hunters episode

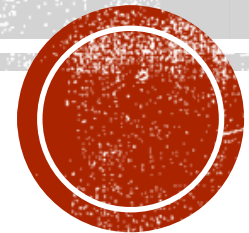
Extreme Makeover: Home Edition episode



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# OKLAHOMA FILM FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- Three-step process
  - Final step is a film permit
  - The City of Norman has a special event permit that could be modified/adapted to fulfill the final step to certify Norman as an Oklahoma Film Friendly Community
    - Bartlesville shared their permit with us which has been reviewed by city staff which leads us to today's meeting
  - Being certified would allow Norman to be listed among the state's other communities on the online Oklahoma Film and Music Office resource
  - There are currently 28 other municipalities that have been certified



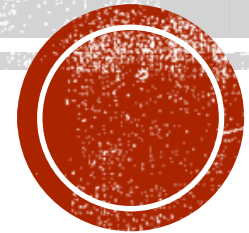
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# OPEN DOOR

Item 1.

Being certified will allow Norman to present our assets and resources to a much wider audience to attract productions to our city.

Like the open doors at 2nd Friday Art Walk on Main Street that encourage patrons to walk into their businesses and establishments, being listed opens those kinds of doors.



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# QUESTIONS?

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