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news

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KANKAKEE-AREA CITIZENS INVITED TO ATTEND FREE SCREENING OF “THE UNBORN”

Illinois Film Office’s “Night at the Movies” Showcases New Movies Filmed in Illinois

CHICAGO – On Thursday, January 8th, Kankakee-area residents will have a chance to be among the first in the nation to see the new horror movie, *The Unborn*. The Illinois Film Office (IFO) will be hosting a free screening of *The Unborn* as part of IFO’s *Night at the Movies* series, a new program for people around the state to see movies shot in Illinois and to learn more about Illinois’ bustling film industry. *The Unborn* was shot in Illinois in 2007, accounting for more than 1,100 job hires and about \$10.7 million in Illinois spending. Several days were actually spent shooting at Shapiro Mental Health Center in Kankakee.

The Unborn, directed by David Goyer, one of the writers of *The Dark Knight*, is the horror story of a young woman who fights the spirit that is slowly taking possession of her. The screening will be held at 7 p.m. at Cinemark Movies 10, 1600 N. State Route 50, in Bourbonnais. The film opens nationwide on February 9th.

Seats are limited so interested people should R.S.V.P. to secure seats for themselves and a guest. Email responses should be sent to Julie.Morgan@illinois.gov or you can call (312) 814-3204. Since it is a horror film, *The Unborn* is R-rated. Persons under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

“IFO *Night at the Movies* is a great opportunity to host people for a fun night out while learning about the positive economic impact film production has in our state,” Illinois Film Office Managing Director Betsy Steinberg said. “*The Unborn* was shot in and around Chicago and Kankakee. This movie, which poured more than \$10 million into the Illinois economy, is another example of how effective our film tax credit is.”

The film industry has a sizable impact on the Illinois economy and brings thousands of jobs to the state each year. In 2007, Illinois film productions made more than 26,500 hires in Illinois - a 110-percent increase over 2006. A number of films and television shows were produced in Illinois in 2007 including: “*The Dark Knight*” (Batman); “*Wanted*” starring Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman; “*The Express*” with Dennis Quaid; “*Fred Claus*” with Vince Vaughn; and, “*Meet the Browns*” starring Angela Bassett. In 2008, movies such as “*Public Enemies*” starring Johnny Depp, “*The Informant*” starring Matt Damon; and, the TV series, “*The Beast*” starring Patrick Swayze, all were filmed in Illinois.

In 2000, Illinois began suffering a mass exodus of the film industry as other states began enacting film incentives. By 2003, the Illinois film industry had fallen to an all-time low of \$23 million. In response, Gov. Blagojevich enacted the Illinois Film Tax Credit. Since its passage, the film industry has rebounded dramatically. The film industry reached an all-time record of nearly \$155 million in 2007. This represents the single best year in the state’s history - and an 80-percent increase over 2006.

“We are always looking for innovative ways to showcase and promote Illinois’ film industry. The film industry brings thousands of jobs to the state each year, and millions in revenue,” Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Jack Lavin said. “I want to thank Governor Blagojevich for signing the Film Tax Credit to make these record successes possible.”

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is dedicated to advancing Illinois’ reputation as a world-class film destination. The Illinois Film Office, a division of DCEO, promotes and markets the state as an ideal shooting location for films, television shows and commercials. The IFO also promotes and encourages the training and hiring of Illinois residents who represent the diversity of the state’s population.

Gov. Blagojevich’s *Opportunity Returns* regional economic development strategy is the most aggressive, comprehensive approach to creating jobs in Illinois’ history. Since a one-size-fits-all approach to economic development just doesn’t work, the Governor has divided the state into 10 regions – each with a regional team that is empowered and expected to rapidly respond to opportunities and challenges. *Opportunity Returns* is about tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses. It is about upgrading the skills of the local workforce, increasing the access to capital, opening new markets, improving infrastructure, and creating and retaining jobs. *Opportunity Returns* is about successfully partnering with companies and communities, both large and small, to help all of Illinois reach its economic potential.

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