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## THE REEL SPOTLIGHT ON OKLAHOMA FILM + MUSIC TESTIMONIALS AND QUOTES



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**Casey Twenter, Edmond**  
Writer, Producer  
*Scent of Rain and Lightening,*  
*Rudderless, In The Rough*

*“A state that commits to having a film industry will have a film industry...**a steady industry can effect a state’s economy as it does in Canada, Louisiana, and Georgia.** Every place where there is a major production hub, it is based around a rebate and the assurance that that rebate isn’t just there, but that it will remain there.”*



**Jeff Robison, Edmond**  
Writer, Producer  
*Scent of Rain and Lightening,*  
*Rudderless, In The Rough*

*“We have employed over 100 Oklahomans and provided revenue to well over thirty Oklahoman businesses for extended periods of time. **Without the rebate, we cannot film here. Investors will look to maximize every dollar, and without a rebate, we will be forced to film in a different location.** We are building a reputation. We are enhancing the state’s image nationwide. **We are providing jobs.**”*



**Hannah Marchant, OKC**  
Production Coordinator, PA  
*I Can Only Imagine, Wildlife, American Gods*

*“**Every project I have worked on decided to bring their production to Oklahoma explicitly because of the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program.** The low budget-minimum means that low budget indie features may use the program, and those projects rely heavily on local crew. **I would leave if the rebate was taken away, and I know many would make those hard decisions and do the same.**”*



**Tracy Zserdin, Guthrie**  
President & CEO  
*Guthrie Chamber of Commerce*

*“**Continuing the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program would bring a much needed boost to our small community.** Several businesses, including hotels and restaurants, and other businesses including automotive repairs, catering and retail see **increased revenue when film projects are in town.**”*



**Nathan Gardocki, OKC**  
President  
*Nathan Gardocki Productions Video*  
*Production Services Equipment Rental*

*“**The film enhancement rebate touches every aspect of what I do.** As a UPM, I am often one of the first people out-of-state producers meet when they are looking to film in Oklahoma and the the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate is always one of their top reasons for considering Oklahoma. I have seen the infrastructure of the Oklahoma film industry grow immensely in recent years, and I believe **growth is dependent on preserving the rebate program.**”*



**Maria Swindell-Gus, Bartlesville**  
Executive Director, Bartlesville  
Convention and Visitor's Bureau

*"We have seen large and smaller films come through Bartlesville and our community is able to display the hospitality of Oklahoma on a regular basis through this program. **The ripple effect from the rebate program moves through our community today as films continue to spend money** on getting something to eat, getting fuel, going shopping and whatever comes with having to relocate your home for three or four months."*



**Garrett Starks, Del City**  
Owner  
Castle Row Studios

*"**The rebate program for us specifically is everything.** That's really the driving force behind getting films here, and give people an incentive to try Oklahoma and to see what we have to offer and once they get here, they're over the moon happy. **The program really has been everything for driving that business here.**"*



**Rebekah Bell, Okmulgee**  
Production Designer  
Gosnell

*"**Before the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program was in place, there was no work here and I had to move to LA.** The only reason I can hang my hat in here and spend my money, pay taxes and vote, is the rebate program. These incentives put Oklahoma on the map with the film industry. **There is only work here because the film incentives are competitive with others across the nation.**"*



**Kyle Roberts, Edmond**  
Filmmaker, Director, Producer  
Reckless Abandonment Pictures

*"**Without the film incentive, we wouldn't be able to make the family-friendly feature films that my production company is working on,** and in a state where the focus is on incarceration and obesity, we can help put the focus on quality family-friendly content. I'm a big supporter of the rebate because **it not only brings jobs and money to Oklahoma, but also builds our growing film cast and crew who would otherwise leave the state.**"*



**Marcy Jarrett, Enid**  
Director  
Visit Enid

*"As our state is experiencing an economic downturn in the energy industry, **this added revenue is appreciated in a city like Enid** where energy and agriculture are the top two industries. **During the times these film crews are filming in town due to the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program, sales tax revenues increase** thanks to added room nights at our hotels, additional meals eaten in our restaurants and shopping done at our local merchants."*



**Maggie McClure, OKC**  
Musician, Songwriter, Actress  
Cowgirls 'N Angels

“My song “Good Morning and Good Night” was featured in a film that was filmed in Oklahoma using the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program and the director and writer and producer found my song through the Oklahoma Film + Music Office. **That opportunity alone has opened so many doors for me.**”



**Jonathon Gardocki, OKC**  
Office Manager  
Nathan Gardocki Productions

“I would no longer be living in Oklahoma if it weren’t for the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program. My coworkers and I are living proof that the rebate program helps create stable jobs and the company we work for is proof that **the rebate program helps create steady revenue for local businesses.**”



**Dee Dee Devore, OKC**  
Sales Manager  
Sheraton Hotel

“Here at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel we have had many opportunities to work with production crews and the amount of revenue they bring into our hotel and our city is immeasurable. **The rebate program incentivizes and drives businesses to Oklahoma, and it is critical that the program continues.**”



**Lance McDaniel, OKC**  
Director  
Crazy Enough, Light From The Darkroom

“The rebate program from the Oklahoma Film + Music Office is the single biggest reason film productions come to Oklahoma. Once they arrive, they love the great locations and quickly hire the fantastic cast and crew members, but it is the rebate that makes them look at Oklahoma.”



**Kevin Waller, Ada**  
Owner, President  
Gerson Productions, LLC.

“The rebate program is the lifeblood of the Oklahoma film industry. As Oklahoma’s program becomes more established, bigger films will begin to come. Currently, it is strong enough to get a real look over the more established states like Louisiana and Georgia, but **if there is no Oklahoma Rebate Program, filmmakers will simply go elsewhere.** No rebate, no Oklahoma film industry.”



**Alison Naifeh, OKC**  
Location Manager, Location Scout  
Locations Manager Guild International

*“Over the last three years, multiple feature films and TV series have filmed in Oklahoma due to the Oklahoma Film Rebate Program. This incentive has not only brought revenue and jobs to Oklahomans, communities, hotels, restaurants, and rental companies, but has allowed Oklahomans to pursue educational and professional opportunities. **Oklahoma’s rebate program has played a major role in their choosing to film in Oklahoma over other states without such incentives.**”*



**Scott Marsh, OKC**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Levelland Productions / The Criterion

*“I think that Oklahoma Film + Music Office and **the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program has been a huge push in the right direction for what I think a lot of us want Oklahoma to see and to become.**”*



**Kim Percival, Mustang**  
Production Manager  
Starbright

*“The Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate, Oklahoma crew, Oklahoma Film + Music Office staff and locations have made my film so much easier to produce. **Because of the benefits, I’ve started a company and plan to move back to Oklahoma to continue work in the film industry.** With the benefits the state currently provides, I know production can grow much bigger to provide jobs and companies a place to grow in this great industry.”*



**Justin Clenard, Mustang**  
Transportation Coordinator  
Pyle Production Services LLC.

*“**I spent 3 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Machine Gunner in the Infantry in the Marine Corps. After I came home, I found a purpose in the Oklahoma film industry.** I have had several friends of mine that I served with overseas move to Oklahoma and go to work for me as drivers, transportation captains, and coordinators. **If this incentive were to go away, I would have to sell my business or move to another state to support my family.**”*



**Tyler Slawson, Durant**  
Director

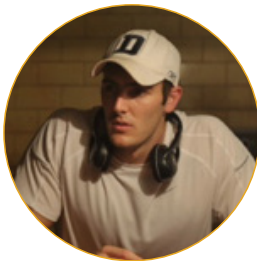
*“**Ending this program would be a failure to many communities in our state, like ours, that really want a production in their area. The current film rebate allows all Oklahoma communities to showcase the best of what makes us Oklahomans. Being in a place that honors filmmakers and their craft is important.**”*

# WHAT ARE VISITORS SAYING ABOUT OKLAHOMA?



**Neil Gaiman, Portchester, UK**  
Director  
*American Gods*

*“Tulsa has been, ever since I was about 19, the place in America that reeked of literary magic to me. I had plucked up the courage, and written a fan letter to R.A. Lafferty, from an address I found in the back of a book of authors in my local library...He told me how to become an author, and his advice was very good advice, and so I did. **It left me quite certain that the finest literary advice in the world came from Tulsa, Oklahoma, for it did in my case.**”*



**Conor Allyn, Dallas, TX**  
Writer, Director  
*Wicked Love, Overexposed*

*“As a film director and producer who continues to work in Oklahoma, **I can verifiably state that the incentive program is an absolutely pivotal program for the industry.** While my experience in Oklahoma has been of the highest quality, I can guarantee without a shadow of a doubt that **without an incentive program, there would be no way these films could happen in the state.**”*



**Daryl LeFever, Mt. Shasta, CA**  
Producer  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*“**We landed on Oklahoma because of the incentive. Otherwise we would have had to shoot our film in Louisiana.** The local crew had experience to work on our film because of their work on previous films that were drawn here because of the incentive.”*



**James Cotten, Los Angeles, CA**  
Director, Producer  
*The Mustanger and the Lady*

*“**Without an incentive you will effectively kill any chance for working Oklahomans to do what they do and live at home.** It would be such a shame to get this close to making a true industry in my home and watch it dry up.”*



**Bayard Outerbridge, Los Angeles, CA**  
Owner and President of Gerson Productions  
LLC.

*"I can say unequivocally that a lack of incentive would immediately rule out Oklahom as an option for future filming activities by myself and other potential productions. I can confirm that all indications point to incentives being an absolute must for producers and directors deciding which jurisdiction to shoot in. **Jurisdictions without a competitive incentive will get a pass.**"*



**Grant Heslov, Los Angeles, CA**  
Producer  
*August: Osage County*

*"We found every resource that was needed to successfully complete the filming of **August: Osage County in Oklahoma.** It was fantastic. We had a great experience there."*



**Keshav Tyagi, Los Angeles, CA**  
Director  
*Blueberry Hall*

*"The growth of Oklahoma's film production is tied to the **Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate Program.** With young talent on the rise and maturation blooming, I foresee an increase in local feature productions and TV series that would provide year to year productions due to multiple shooting seasons."*



**Kristofer McNeely, Burbank, CA**  
Writer, Producer  
*Wicked Love, Great Plains*

*"For me as a studio executive, if I want to prove a movie, a line of business, an individual project or whatever it may be, **I need to prove the revenue stream and why it behooves us to spend a little extra money to take it somewhere else.**"*



**John Wells, Alexandria, VA**  
Director  
*August: Osage County*

*"**August: Osage County wouldn't have been made here without the Oklahoma Film Enhancement Rebate** and the Oklahoma film office. Without the incentives, we wouldn't have come here. Despite the major cast, this was not a major-budget movie, so that was important to the studio."*



**Brent McCorkle, Nashville, TN**  
Co-writer, Co-editor, Co-composer  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"I was amazed at the locations - epic midwest vistas, picturesque historic sites, modern urban backdrops, and everything in between. **Oklahoma made us feel welcome, the Film + Music Office supported us at every turn and our crew was top-notch to work with.** I'd do it all again tomorrow."*



**Amber Lindley, Fayetteville, AR**  
Producer  
*The Mustanger and the Lady*

*"Without the rebate program, Oklahoma becomes a state that our investors and producers will pass by for future locations. With a declining film industry, cast and crew begin to move and the level of professionalism that we found so abundant in Oklahoma these last few months will dissipate, causing our production company to seek incentive and workforce in other states."*



**Andrew Erwin, Birmingham, AL**  
Writer, Co-Director  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"Oklahomans make up 60-70 percent of our crew, and 13,000 people responded to our need for local extras. **We felt adopted into this amazing community from day one.**"*



**Keith Kjarval, Northridge, CA**  
Producer  
*Rudderless*

*"The general cohesiveness of the community and the willingness to embrace the film became a part of it, and **Oklahoma fell in love with the film.** The entire community starting with the Film + Music Office put something out there. That doesn't happen often"*



**William H. Macy, Miami, FL**  
Director  
*Rudderless*

*"We saw no reason to shoot **Rudderless anywhere but Oklahoma.** They've been downright generous."*





**Payton Dunham, Burbank, CA**  
Location Manager  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"I spent the first 30 years of my life in Oklahoma and then moved to Colorado and eventually New York City because I had to follow the work. **I'm proud to be back in my home state making movies here. I've done five films in the last five years here in Oklahoma.**"*



**Kevin Downes, Visalia, CA**  
Producer  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"This is our first Oklahoma production, and we certainly hope it won't be our last. **MercyMe has Oklahoma roots, and we discovered the state's film-friendly incentives.**"*



**Mark Jarrett, Austin, TX**  
Location Manager  
*Wildlife, American Gods*

*"**There is one reason why I have been working a lot in the Oklahoma market the last two years and it's the rebate program.** That's it. If you take that away, the film money goes away, followed quickly by the jobs. I strongly believe that **the film industry in Oklahoma is a valuable addition to the state.**"*



**Cindy Bond, Malibu, CA**  
Producer  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"This is my first time filming in Oklahoma and the overall experience on every level has been the absolute best. **Aside from the uniquely perfect location options and production incentives, the best part of Oklahoma has been the people** and especially our crew. They have been very hard working very kind professionals."*



**Dennis Quaid, Houston, TX**  
Actor  
*I Can Only Imagine*

*"All the museums that you have here, and seeing the federal building and paying tribute to that was really quite moving, and **really, it's the people more than anything else. They're so great.**"*



**Dermot Mulroney, Alexandria, VA**  
Actor  
August: Osage County

*"We were so warmly welcomed and the location was the right one, so it goes without saying, was happy to be there."*



**Julia Roberts, Smyrna, GA**  
Actor  
August: Osage County

*"The colors are the colors of the Moors in England, heathery and **there's stands of besieged oaks, real tumbleweeds, gorgeous, changing, cinematic disguise.**"*



**Madeline Carroll, Los Angeles, CA**  
Actress  
I Can Only Imagine

*"The people of Oklahoma are so welcoming and sweet, **there's a sense of faith, family and community that you just don't see that in Los Angeles.**"*



**Meryl Streep, Summit, NJ**  
Actor  
August: Osage County

*"Oklahoma is a surprise, **it's so shockingly beautiful.** It's really varied and mysterious. The sky is huge and it's kind of beautiful, spiritual."*



**Cloris Leachman, Des Moines, IA**  
Actress  
I Can Only Imagine

*"My favorite thing about working here is the avocado margaritas at Barrios. And indoor skydiving."*