

By Cheryl V. Jackson
October 9, 2008

'Express' drives movie revenue for state

Count "The Express" among the films fueling the state's economic engine.

The film about the first African-American Heisman Trophy winner brought \$21.5 million in revenue to Illinois during its 2007 filming, state officials said Wednesday.

Though primarily based in New York state, much of the movie, which opens Friday, was filmed in the Chicago area and created about 9,200 jobs, \$10 million in wages and \$9.5 million in sales to vendors.

The film follows recent releases "The Lucky Ones" and "Eagle Eye," which brought about \$3 million each to the state during their filmings in Illinois.

Illinois also reaped about \$155 million in film industry-related spending last year, according to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.