



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

# NEWS

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**CONTACT:** Annie Thompson, GOV (o. 217-782-7355; c. 217-720-1853)  
Kelly Jakubek, DCEO (o. 312-814-8198; c. 312-520-5242)  
Marcelyn Love, DCEO (o. 217-558-1542; c. 217-299-8333)

## **Governor Quinn: Illinois Film Industry Boosting State Economy**

### *Blockbuster Productions Like Superman 'Man of Steel' Put Illinois on Pace for Another Record Year*

CHICAGO – September 13, 2011. Governor Pat Quinn today visited the production set of the new Superman movie *Man of Steel* to highlight the impact the film industry is having on the Illinois economy. Illinois' film industry saw a record \$161 million in spending in 2010, a 54 percent increase from 2009, and resulted in more than 8,000 job hires. Approximately 550 people in Illinois are being hired for *Man of Steel* alone.

"With major movie productions like *Man of Steel* coming to Illinois, the film industry is continuing to strengthen our state's economy and create thousands of jobs," Governor Quinn said. "This film is a great example of how the impact of film and television productions is far-reaching in the Illinois economy, benefiting everyone from local restaurants to the carpenters, truck drivers, caterers and custodial staff who make them possible."

With the filming of *Man of Steel*, several major television shows and many commercial productions that have already filmed in the state this year, 2011 is promising to be another banner year for the Illinois film industry.

*Man of Steel* began production in late July in and around Plano, where the city was transformed into Clark Kent's hometown of Smallville. Production moved to Chicago on Sept. 7, where the movie is currently filming. The film stars Henry Cavill as Superman/Clark Kent, Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Kevin Costner and Diane Lane as Clark's parents, Laurence Fishburne as *Daily Planet* Editor Perry White and Russell Crowe as Jor-El, Clark's biological father. Chicagoan Michael Shannon stars as General Zod.

"Illinois continues to make important investments in the film industry as a way to create jobs and cultivate a more sustainable industry, which will help Illinois maintain its competitive edge against other leading production centers," DCEO Director Warren Ribley said. "The state sees an immediate return on investment when productions like *Man of Steel* film in Illinois, not only by increasing economic activity and adding jobs, but also by showcasing Illinois' great locations and skilled workforce."

"Last year was a record-breaking year for the Illinois film industry and with major productions like *Man of Steel* filming in Illinois, this is sure to be another successful year," Betsy Steinberg, Managing Director of the Illinois Film Office said. "We're seeing more and more films, TV series and commercials choosing to shoot in Illinois, which is giving our economy a boost and creating jobs."

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Illinois' film industry saw a record \$161 million in spending in 2010, which topped the \$155 million in spending in 2007 and represents a 54 percent increase from 2009.

Earlier this year, Governor Quinn helped dedicate a new soundstage development, Cinespace Chicago Film Studios, which will make Illinois an even more attractive filming destination. The new studio, when fully built out, will include 1.2 million square feet of space and is located on 48.2 acres at the site of the old Ryerson Steel property on the near southwest side of Chicago between Ogden and Western Avenues.

With many unique locations, talented crews, and ample sound stages, the Illinois Film Office (IFO) actively pursues film projects by promoting Illinois as an ideal location to film. In addition, the IFO administers the Illinois' Film Tax Credit, which has been instrumental in spurring growth of Illinois' film industry. Illinois offers a 30 percent tax credit to filmmakers for money spent on Illinois goods and services, including wages paid to Illinois residents. Since its inception, the Film Tax Credit has helped bring over half a billion dollars in revenue to the state and over 10,000 full time equivalent jobs.

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