RMM General Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2013 (August 2013 Meeting)

Start Time: 6:34PM

Total in Attendance: 26

Location: RCTV

Agenda:

Introductions:

* Made individually around the room

Upcoming Events:

The Shmoovies!

* Monday, September 9, 2013 at Cinema Theater
* Patrons will be able to buy $10 tickets online or at event with cash or credit card

RMM Writers Workshop

* Next meeting is Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 6:00PM at Pita Pit, 311 Alexander Street
* Bring outlines, short scripts, or first ten pages of feature, and discuss

RMM Executive Meeting

* Next Meeting is Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 6:00PM at Little Theater Café

Upcoming Projects:

Adrian Esposito – *Bury My Heart with Tonawanda*

* If enough Facebook posts/likes are made for his film, it will get accepted into the Malibu Film Festival
* He will repost on RMM Facebook page

Noel Bastien and Yasin Shabazz – *Bad Deeds* (formerly *Urban Development*) TV Series

* Producing trailer on Saturday, September 21, 2013 – Sunday, September 22, 2013
* Needs: DP, Gaffer, 1st AD, Script Supervisor, Assistant Camera, Make-Up Artist, and PAs
* Contact noel.bastien.producer@gmail.com

Speaker:

Nora Brown – Executive Director, Rochester/Finger Lakes Film & Video Office – “Things to Know if You Want to Shoot in Rochester”

* Film Office covers area from Syracuse to Letchworth State Park, and Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania border

Background

* Nora got her career started working as a PA, and used networking skills to land her next jobs
* Eventually created production company to be the money behind many successful pictures
* Along with her and the Deputy Director, the Film Office has over 60 years of film experience

Shooting in Rochester

* Rochester is a “Permit City”
	+ Need permits to block road to shoot, and may require the use of police and insurance
	+ Film Office will help filmmakers obtain those permits
	+ Permit turnaround time is speedy if it’s not too complicated an issue
	+ Cost now: $70.00
* Rochester has strongest film infrastructure in NYS, outside of New York City
	+ Probably from Kodak filming test reels in Rochester for years
	+ We have soundstages and equipment houses
	+ However, Eastern Effects (out of NYC) will rent here locally and drive equipment trucks up
		- Sometimes it’s less to rent a truck from NYC than to rent equipment here
* Film Office as different business contacts in area – Utica, Finger Lakes, etc.
	+ For example, Film Office can get all competitive prices for hotel rooms in the area
	+ Will also go to city permit offices with you and help with the process
* Film Office has blog on website that posts helpful information for local filmmakers
	+ <http://rocfilmcommission.wordpress.com/>
* Permits – only City of Rochester and Brighton want permits in the area
	+ Other towns don’t require them
	+ Pittsford is weird exception, and Film Office can help with that
	+ However, let both neighbors and city know if there will be heavy filming, pyrotechnics, or gunshots in film
* Tax Credits – Film Office can definitely help navigate all NYS Film Tax Credits/Incentives
	+ NYS Film Incentive Program - 30% of below-the-line spending comes back as a tax rebate with a 10% bump for below the line labor after January 1, 2015
		- The production company (LLC) actually gets the check, so the rebate goes to the partners
		- Is an actual refund of all money spent below the line in a production
		- Can also use in conjunction with the Jobs Creation Act, as long as there is a “reasonable expectation to finish the film”
			* Meaning: someone can invest in a film and use that as a full tax write-off for the full investment amount
* Has a soundstage use requirement
	+ - * + Upstate Post Production Tax Credit – 35% of post-production spending comes back as a tax rebate

Will also be receiving a 10% additional bump for below-the-line labor

solely a post-production tax incentive, and can’t be used along with the production credit

* Tax Credits apply only to scripted narrative projects for feature, TV series, made for TV, etc.
* Insurance – need a one-million dollar policy to shoot in Rochester
	+ Spencerport needs three million, but Film Office can get around that
		- Also, car drivers (in Spencerport) need a one-million-dollar rider
	+ Short-term policy can be purchased for 90 days for about $1,200 - $1,400, but need list of location and dates before getting
		- Or, one can get a producer with a company to use his insurance for less

*The Amazing Spider-Man 2*

* First call about film came to her office in December 2012
* Scouts simply wanted picture of power plants, tunnels, and our main streets
	+ Scouts liked Main Street, so they confidentially sent an in-person location scout in January 2013
	+ Shooting dates confirmed January 2013 with 2nd Unit Director (a Brighton native)
		- City said yes to the huge-scale project nervously, but was helpful
* Still couldn’t say anything until final press release
* “It was all good for Rochester”
	+ Producer staged that Production cost $350,000.00 a day (Rochester city area alone was estimated at $250,000.00 a day)
	+ As improvement for next time though, Film Office would have production company tell store owners earlier to give more warning
	+ 125 PAs were hired and trained here
	+ Film Office didn’t get credit for bringing the film here, but that’s not the point of the Office
		- Film Office was happy she got them to spend money in Rochester
* Things to do differently next time
	+ Governor’s Office released the press release and took primary credit for bringing film to Rochester – Film Office will handle that differently next time and have own press release
	+ Be more clear/get word out about who really brought the film to Rochester

Networking: 7:30PM

End of Meeting: 8:00PM