
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

A FIVE-YEAR HIGH FOR B.C.'S DOMESTIC FILM PRODUCTION

VICTORIA – British Columbia remains a strong contender in film and television production, with a record year in domestic film production, announced Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen today. BC Film Commission statistics show film and television production in British Columbia contributed \$943 million to the provincial economy in 2007.

“B.C. continues to perform well in the face of a ‘perfect storm’ of global industry challenges,” said Hagen. “The decrease in foreign production activity was offset by the dramatic rise in homegrown production. This increase is outstanding and shows the real maturity and innovation of B.C. companies.”

According to data released today by the BC Film Commission, domestic film and television activity in British Columbia continued a five-year trend of continuous growth, reaching a high in 2007 of \$407 million in total B.C. spending, up 47 per cent from \$278 million in 2006.

“B.C. is truly a world-class production centre and continues to perform exceptionally well, despite the realities of current market conditions,” said Peter Leitch, chair of the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC and president of Mammoth and North Shore studios. “Recent changes to the provincial tax incentive program have ensured that B.C. is well positioned for global success based on both excellent quality and cost competitiveness.”

The rapid and sustained rise in the value of the Canadian dollar, aggressive new tax incentives in many U.S. states, a prolonged strike by the Writers’ Guild of America members, and a local shortage of available studio space, all played a role in a 44 per cent downturn in total foreign B.C. production spending: \$536 million in 2007 from \$950 million in 2006.

“In spite of challenges in 2007, B.C. foreign production spending still exceeded over half a billion dollars. As well, the animation industry is showing promising growth with an increase in productions from last year with projects like Ricky Sprocket, Atomic Betty 3, and George of the Jungle,” said Chris Bartelman, partner, Studio B Productions Inc, and chair of the B.C. Branch Council of the Canadian Film and Television Production Association. “Production levels will return over time, and the growth of the domestic B.C. industry and infrastructure has ensured that this province has a diverse production community that is able to weather both internal and external industry challenges.”

BACKGROUND

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2007 BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION

Domestic Industry Comparison to 2006

- Overall domestic spending in B.C. increased 47 per cent, to over \$407 million, up from \$278 million in 2006.
- A total of 138 domestic productions were shot in British Columbia in 2007, including 24 feature films, 24 television series, 80 television projects (TV movies, miniseries, pilots, documentaries, etc.) and 10 animated series or projects.
- The number of television series increased 71 per cent, to 24 series, up from 14 in 2006.
- The number of feature film projects increased 33 per cent, to 24 projects, up from 18 in 2006.
- Animation spending increased 45 per cent, to over \$53 million, compared to \$37 million in 2006.

Foreign Industry Comparison to 2006

- Overall foreign production spending in B.C. decreased 44 per cent to \$536 million, down from \$950 million in 2006.
- A total of 64 foreign productions were shot in British Columbia in 2007, including 23 features films, 18 television series, 14 television projects (TV movies, miniseries, pilots, documentaries etc.) and 9 animated series or projects.
- The number of television series decreased 28 per cent, to 18 series, down from 25 in 2006.
- The number of feature film projects decreased 34 per cent, to 23 projects, down from 35 in 2006.
- Animation spending decreased 16 per cent, to \$35 million compared to \$41 million in 2006.

Other Highlights

- The five-year growth in domestic production demonstrates the quality and competitiveness of B.C. production companies.
- Domestic television series production increased 183 per cent, to \$158 million, up from \$56 million in 2006.
- Foreign production activity surpassed \$535 million in B.C. expenditures.
- The province's animation industry continued to thrive in 2007, with some of the biggest productions being Ricky Sprocket, Atomic Betty 3, Chaotic, George of the Jungle, Storm Hawks, Edgar and Ellen, Space Chimps and Barbie: Island Princess.
- Major movies and television series shot in British Columbia in 2007 included: Elegy, Juno, The Watchmen, Passengers, Far Cry, Tale of Two Sisters, Iron Road, Snow Buddies, Tin Man, Personal Effects, Aliens in America, JPOD, The Guard, Flash Gordon, Whistler, Men in Trees, Bionic Woman, Reaper, Stargate Atlantis and Supernatural.

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British Columbia is the third-largest film and television service production centre in North America, after Los Angeles and New York.

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION 2005 – 2007

Production Type	2007 Year End Dec. 31		2006 Year end Dec. 31		2005 Year End Dec. 31	
	No. of projects	Production \$ spent in B.C. (\$ = millions)	No. of projects	Production \$ spent in B.C. (\$ = millions)	No. of projects	Production \$ spent in B.C. (\$ = millions)
Domestic						
Feature Film	24	81.61	18	49.70	24	43.10
Television Series	24	157.64	14	55.78	18	88.93
Television Movies, Mini-Series, Specials, Pilots, Documentaries & Docudramas	80	114.52	100	135.15	65	57.14
Animation	10	53.93	12	37.19	11	35.61
Total Domestic	138	407.70	144	277.82	118	224.78
% Change	4.2%	46.7%	22%	23.6%		
Foreign						
Feature Film	23	179.17	35	424.68	39	580.28
Television Series	18	277.48	25	432.78	13	298.10
Television Movies, Mini-Series, Specials, Pilots, Documentaries & Docudramas	14	44.25	20	51.41	28	80.69
Animation	9	34.74	6	41.18	13	49.82
Total Foreign	64	535.64	86	950.05	93	1,008.90
% Change	-25.6%	-43.6%	7.5%	-5.8%		
TOTAL						
Feature Film	47	260.79	53	474.38	63	623.38
Television Series	42	435.12	39	488.56	31	387.03
Television Movies, Mini-Series, Specials, Pilots, Documentaries & Docudramas	94	158.77	120	186.55	93	137.83
Animation	19	88.67	18	78.37	24	85.44
Total	202	943.35	230	1,227.87	211	1,233.68
% Change	-12.2%	-26.2%	9%	-0.5%		

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