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Two More Projects Approved for N.C. Film & Entertainment Grants

The Department of Commerce has awarded two new television and film projects with North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grants to support productions in several locations around the state. Combined, the projects are estimated to generate direct in-state spending of \$30 million while creating more than 1,500 job opportunities in the state.

"It's pretty simple: film productions mean good jobs across North Carolina," said Governor Roy Cooper. "We've worked hard to bring the film industry back with record investments and huge momentum for the future."

The first grant awardee, "The Supremes at Earl's All-You-Can-Eat," is a feature film adaptation of the novel of the same title by Edward Kelsey Moore. The story follows three best friends who have weathered life's storms together for two generations through marriage and children, happiness, and the blues. Production on the project is currently underway with filming primarily taking place in New Hanover County. The project has been approved for a rebate of up to \$5.75 million.

The second grant awardee, "Mother Couch!," has been awarded a grant rebate up to \$1.75 million. This independent feature film project tells the story of how three estranged children who are brought together as they attempt to figure out why their mother has stationed herself on a green couch inside a local furniture store and refuses to leave. Filming on the production has been underway in the greater Charlotte area.

These awardees join previously announced TV and streaming projects, "George and Tammy," "Hightown" Season 3, "Welcome To Flatch" Season 2, and "The Summer I Turned Pretty" Season 2; the made for TV movie "To Her With Love;" and the feature-length films "Something Here," "The Other Zoey," "Providence," "ABG and Her Monster," "Site," the "Untitled Please Don't Destroy" project, and "Eric Larue" as film and entertainment grant recipients with activities in 2022. In addition to these projects, North Carolina also welcomed productions this year for several travel shows, the independent features "A Little Prayer" and "A Song for Imogene," several national commercials, local projects, and multiple reality series. To date, production companies were estimated to be spending in excess of \$275 million direct in the state in 2022.

"Everyone enjoys seeing new stories in the theater or at home in our living rooms, but film production is also an important sector of the state's economy," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Machel Baker Sanders. "These new productions bring job opportunities for North Carolina's talented film crew base as well as additional economic activity and spending in our local communities."

"2022 was another great year for the film and production industry in North Carolina," said North Carolina Film Office Director Guy Gaster. "We are excited to have these new projects creating economic wins for the communities in which they are filming, the crew and talent they are employing, and the local businesses from which they are making their purchases."

The North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant provides financial assistance to attract feature film and television productions that will stimulate economic activity and create jobs in the state. Production companies receive no money up front and must meet direct in-state spending requirements to qualify for grant funds, which are paid out following the completion of the project and a successful audit of the production's spending. Grants serve as a reimbursement for some of this spending. The program is administered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce and promoted by the North Carolina Film Office, part of *VisitNC.com* and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

Equine and Livestock Trailer Maintenance

Winter is the perfect time to give your trailer some attention. After a long season of trailering your animals to trails, shows, and sales, your trailer may have experienced some wear and tear. Regular maintenance will add years to your trailer's life. As responsible trailer operators, before we hit the road again, let's check on our equipment. Here are a few things you should check regularly.

Washing When washing keep it simple. Use some liquid car wash soap and warm water. Use a hose instead of a pressure washer. This will protect finishes like colored side sheets or polished wave panels. Make sure to clean the lights and reflective surfaces and don't forget about the underside of the trailer. This is where dirt, dust and road chemicals pile up. While washing, keep a lookout for rust. If you find some, use sandpaper or steel wool to get rid of it. After washing, let it dry and use some rust proof paint to touch up those spots.

Lighting Test your vehicle's lights before hooking up your trailer lights. Make sure the lights don't dim, flicker, or are weakened when the turn signal or brakes are activated. Before checking for individual problems, examine the wiring harness and trailer connector. Disconnect the trailer from the tow vehicle and make sure the power source is disconnected if it has a separate electrical system. Start at the trailer's connector. Follow the wiring harness, the wires are held together with nylon zip ties (some trailers have enclosed wires in a rubber sheath to provide extra protection from wear and tear). Look for any points where the zip ties have deteriorated. If any wires have cracked or have weak areas, use electrical tape to reseal them. If wires have been exposed, reseal the individual wires as needed before sealing up the harness. Clean off the pins on the trailer connector using a wire brush, steel wool or fine sandpaper. Then, put some dielectric waterproof grease on the connector to prevent moisture from getting in. Make sure not to get any grease on the plugs or slots themselves, as it is a nonconductor.

Tires Make sure tires are all properly inflated. You can find the right PSI for your tires by consulting the owner's manual for the trailer. Measure the depth of the tread. You can perform the penny test if you don't have a tire tread depth gauge. Take a penny and stick it in your tire's tread grooves at several points around the tire. If the tread doesn't cover

Abe's head, it's time to get new tires. If one or more of your tires needs replacing, it is best to replace them all at once.

Grease Grease your trailer's ball hitch, tongue jack, and ramp hinges, preferably before each trip. Dab some grease on a rag and coat. Get a professional to grease the wheel bearings once a year or every 12,000 miles, whichever comes sooner. *By Kinsey Everhart, Livestock and Row Crop Agent*



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Wadesboro Lions Club Welcomes New Members

The Wadesboro Lions Club meets at the Papa Joe's Restaurant the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information about these meetings or becoming a member, please call Lion Jim Chandler at 910-571-1448.

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