

MISSOURI FILM OFFICE

Among the highlights of FY17 was the debut of the Netflix original *Ozark* which was partially filmed on location at Lake of the Ozarks, where the fictional story is set. Although principal filming happens in Georgia, crews came to scout Missouri and shoot pivotal scenes, exteriors and additional footage used in the program.

In a seamless blending of tourism and film, both the Missouri Division of Tourism and the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau saw significant website traffic increases during the months in which “Ozark” debuted and was widely in the news.

Since its founding in 1983, the Missouri Film Office has been a central point of contact for inquiries related to film and motion-media productions while working to:

- develop, market and plan industry activities,
- maintain a photography database that’s utilized by location scouts as they seek ideal places to base their projects,
- assist production companies in finding skilled workers, special-equipment operators and support-service groups based in Missouri.

According to research provided by Tourism Economics (2015), the Missouri film industry contributed nearly \$84 million in state and local tax revenues. The various film, TV, web and digital media endeavors employed more than 14,000 people. There’s a strong tourism component to film, too, and that correlation is clear when considering that more than 80,000 people participated in Missouri’s 16 film festivals in FY17.

Film continues to be an attractive industry for those entering the workforce and Missouri’s higher-education institutions are offering more opportunities than ever for students to study in related fields. There are nearly 40 college-level programs in Missouri that are focused on teaching various media-production skills.

The Missouri Film Office also has an abiding interest in the next generation of filmmakers and continues to host the Missouri Stories

Scriptwriting Fellowship program. The international competition for screenplays and TV pilot scripts set in Missouri received 51 submissions during FY17. The three highest-scoring writers attended a multi-day workshop with industry professionals, having the opportunity to work with industry mentors such as Bob Gale (*Back To The Future*), Philip LaZebnik (*Prince of Egypt*) and Syble Gardner (*Nashville*).

