

SCV Film Festival Directors Open Film Center

Ramon Hamilton and Jennifer Fischer are busy these days. That's because when they're not planning for the Santa Clarita Valley Film Festival or shooting an independent film/feature they're leading hands-on film classes for youth and providing valuable resources to aspiring filmmakers in the region.

Just six months ago Ramon and Jennifer opened Santa Clarita's Film Center, available to students and independent filmmakers. The Center offers discounted rates on audition and rehearsal space, editing bays and even a fully equipped iMac with every filmmaking program imaginable that's available to rent for just \$15 per hour.

As part of the Center the pair started after-school and summer youth film and acting classes, which have become highly-sought after. Available to children ages 9-14, the classes provide hands-on education and experience in developing a film from start to finish, including work with professional programs and equipment, and acting for television, commercials and feature films.

"We've designed an innovative class structure that adjusts to the interests and age of our students. In all of our classes we work with our students to bring their ideas to life and to develop their craft," said Hamilton. "It's exciting to see their confidence grow through the programs."



SCV Film Festival Director Ramon Hamilton provides youth with hands-on training and education as part of the Film Center's youth after-school film program.

This fall Hamilton and Fischer will bring the first-ever Film and Video Workshop to students at Hart High School thanks to support from Facey Medical Group. The annual Santa Clarita Valley Film Festival will be held November 8-11, 2007 at the Repertory East Playhouse in Old Town Newhall.

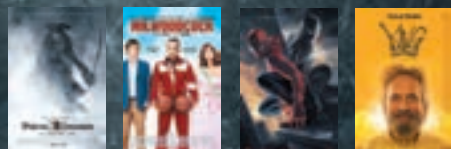
If you're heading to the movies or looking to rent the latest blockbuster, be sure to catch the following titles, all of which filmed on location in Santa Clarita.

Spider-Man 3
Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End
Nancy Drew: The Mystery in Hollywood Hills
Live Free or Die Hard
Banderos - August 31, 2007
King of California - September 14, 2007

Mr. Woodcock - September 14, 2007
The Jane Austen Book Club - September 21, 2007
The Heartbreak Kid - October 5, 2007
There Will Be Blood - November 21, 2007
Charlie Wilson's War - December 25, 2007

Release dates are tentative and subject to change.

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SANTA CLARITA IS BEST LOCATION FOR FX HIT SERIES "THE RICHES"

What's Santa Clarita got that some of the most aggressive incentive-touting locations would like to have? FX Network's hit drama "The Riches" starring Eddie Izzard and Minnie Driver for starters. Despite the fact that the show is scripted to take place in suburban Louisiana, the producers felt that the best scenario was to keep production in Southern California.

"We felt that overall we could put a better show together in Santa Clarita than anywhere else," said Fox Television Studios Senior VP of Production Bob Lemchen. "That took in to account all aspects of the show, from casting and production to post production. **Santa Clarita was the best location.**"

"The Riches" pilot episode was shot in Louisiana, but the rest of the filming took place on two permanent sets at Santa Clarita Studios and on location in and around the Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys.



FX Network's hit drama "The Riches" starring Eddie Izzard and Minnie Driver is based in Santa Clarita and regularly films on location in the Santa Clarita Valley.

"Santa Clarita is a good place to work from a crew perspective," said Jeanne Van Cott, unit production manager. "A lot of the crew lives in the area, and for those who don't, it's generally an easy commute from Pasadena, Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley."

"We felt that overall we could put a better show together in Santa Clarita than anywhere else."

-- Fox Television Studios
Senior VP of Production
Bob Lemchen

Commuting was one great reason to stay local, but Lemchen also noted that it had a lot to do with relationships. Mike DeLorenzo, owner of Santa Clarita Studios, has built strong ties with Fox over the years and most recently was the studio home for the networks' drama "Windfall."

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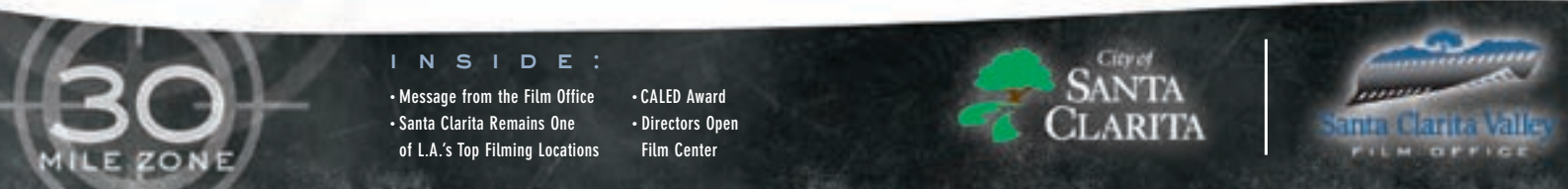
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA HONORS "BIG LOVE'S" HARRY DEAN STANTON AT 2007 WALK OF WESTERN STARS

Celebrating Western legends of film and entertainment has long been a part of Santa Clarita's history. This spring the City of Santa Clarita honored stuntman Phil Rawlins, Cowboy balladeers Sons of the San Joaquin and screen icon Harry Dean Stanton. All were immortalized during a ceremony on April 27 in Old Town Newhall that recognized their individual contributions to the preservation of the West via film, television, music and the arts.



Long-time friend and colleague Bill Paxton attended the 2007 Walk of Western Stars ceremony to present Stanton with his award.

As part of the day's events, Stanton was presented with his Walk of Western Stars award by star of HBO's "Big Love" and long-time friend Bill Paxton. Paxton provided an endearing introduction commemorating Stanton's numerous achievements in film including Western favorites like "Rawhide," "How the West Was Won," "Gunsmoke" and "Bonanza." Stanton's acceptance included a cappella Spanish and Irish ballads that left the room of 500 awe-struck.



From the Film Office

2007 has already proven to be one of the most successful years to date for the Santa Clarita Valley Film Office. I am excited to share that our Film Program was named the "Best Economic Development Program" by the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED). We are truly honored to accept such a prestigious award as we competed not in a separate 'film office' category, but against other types of economic development programs throughout the state.

This exciting achievement is followed closely by the sustainability and success of filming trends in Santa Clarita. I am proud that Santa Clarita is currently home to seven fantastic network shows including: Nickelodeon's "Zoey 101," HBO's "Deadwood," "Big Love" and "John From Cincinnati," CBS's "The Unit" and "NCIS," and FX's "The Riches." Thanks to all who've helped make Santa Clarita one of the best places to film.



Santa Clarita Mayor Marsha McLean, Harry Dean Stanton and Councilmembers Bob Kellar and Laurene Weste take a closer look at Stanton's star in Old Town Newhall.

Our Office is always looking for ways to make your job easier. To that end we've updated and upgraded our web site www.FilmSantaClarita.com.

If you've got a minute I hope you'll spend some time online enjoying our newly-enhanced graphics, streamlined

search engine, more functional online permitting process and increased and updated content. We think it's great and hope you do as well.

Lastly, the City of Santa Clarita recently hosted its annual Walk of Western Stars honoring legends of Western film.

This year we recognized the renowned Harry Dean Stanton for this many extraordinary contributions to Western film. It's been a pleasure having Mr. Stanton in Santa Clarita for the filming of "Big Love" and we look forward to working with him in the years to come.

Thank you for all that you do to make Santa Clarita a great place to live and work. As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to stop by the Film Office or give us a call.

Sincerely,

Jason Crawford
Economic Development Manager



Santa Clarita is a favored location for many of the industry's top programs. Pictured left to right is "Las Vegas" at the intersection of Centre Pointe Parkway and Ruether; "The Unit" on location at the Bermite property; and "Heroes" at the City's Soledad Mine property.

CITY'S FILM PROGRAM RECOGNIZED AS BEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN STATE

The Film Office was recognized by the California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) as the "Best Economic Development Program" in the state. Santa Clarita's Film Office took top honors against several other economic development programs from cities like Long Beach, Vista, Fresno, Riverside, Selma and Santa Rosa.

Though the Santa Clarita Film Office is continuously recognized for its innovation, the CALED award is one of the most prestigious and celebrated to date because it recognized the important role the City's Film Office has played in helping to sustain and grow Santa Clarita's economy.



State Assemblyman Juan Arambula (far right) and CALED Chair Paul Saldana (far left) presented City of Santa Clarita Economic Development Manager Jason Crawford (center left) and Assistant City Manager Ken Striplin (center right) with the CALED award recognizing the City's Film Program as the "Best Economic Development Program" in the state.

"For nearly a century Santa Clarita has been recognized as one of Hollywood's favorite locations and our Film Program is designed to retain the film industry already here, while attracting new productions and businesses," said City of Santa Clarita Mayor Marsha McLean.

"Over the last five years the City of Santa Clarita has taken a proactive approach to attracting and retaining film business, while providing programming that helps these companies succeed," commented McLean. "We've created a successful model that can be used by cities throughout the state to target key industry sectors, which is critical to our state's prosperity."

"THE RICHES" (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

"Mike D. is out in the film community, keeping in touch and marketing his studio and Santa Clarita," said Lemchen. "He's a great resource and in Santa Clarita that worked well for us. He even got us a doctor at 8:00 p.m. one night."

Another strong selling point is the residents of Santa Clarita- the community is full of folks who understand and enjoy the industry. While "location burnout" has plagued many Southern California communities, Santa Clarita's residents and businesses continue to welcome production.

"We've never had a problem shooting on location," said Van Cott. "Everyone's been nice and people in Santa Clarita are more supportive overall of filming."

A good thing considering that the City's Film Office and businesses like Santa Clarita Studios, Valencia Studios and Santa Clarita Valley Locations have worked hard to attract the seven network shows that currently base in Santa Clarita. In addition to keeping local residents working close to home, these shows infuse millions of dollars each year into the local economy to Santa Clarita businesses, and the sales tax generated from this activity helps enable the City to pay for roads, parks, sheriffs and firemen.

"The City of Santa Clarita is committed to helping the industry thrive here," said City of Santa Clarita City Manager Ken Pulskamp. "We're in the 30-mile zone, offer a reverse commute from Los Angeles, the lowest permit fee in the area and we have locations that can be filmed to look like just about anywhere in the world.

It is possible to keep production here in Southern California, and in Santa Clarita we're working hard to do just that."

And so is Fox Television Studios, whenever possible.

"The Riches' is an ambitious show, produced cost-effectively. That's a testament to writer/producer Iain Patterson and the entire crew, for keeping the show running efficiently," commented Lemchen. "We need to be able to keep these shows in town and hopefully this will serve to help."

Catch "The Riches" Monday nights at 10:00 p.m. on FX.

The Film Office's Web site is new and improved. Visit www.FilmSantaClarita.com and check out the enhanced search capabilities, streamlined online permitting process, new design and MAC compatibility.

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT LOCATION - LET NEWHALL LAND HELP

Many of you've been working in Santa Clarita for years and as a result, you've undoubtedly heard of or worked with Newhall Land. The company owns thousands of acres throughout the Santa Clarita Valley, from undeveloped land with fields and mountain peaks with panoramic views to business parks and industrial properties.

Newhall Land is now taking a fresh approach to filming requests. If you've got a project that calls for undeveloped land or a distinctive landscape, contact Cindy Lloyd at 661-255-4287 or clloyd@newhall.com.

FILM OFFICE SEES RECORD NUMBERS IN FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

To say that filming has increased in Santa Clarita this past Fiscal Year (FY runs from July - June) is an understatement. The City of Santa Clarita's Film Office posted the highest numbers since the Office's inception in 2002.

A comparison of the Film Office's performance over the last two years reveals a healthy 9 percent increase in the number of film permits issued within the City of Santa Clarita;

a 26 percent increase in film days in the City; and a 47 percent increase in economic impact to the City of Santa Clarita and its businesses as a result of production spending while on location.

The Film Office is committed to keeping California's signature industry in the 30-mile zone and is working hard to ensure the continued growth of location filming in Santa Clarita and the film community.

STATISTICS FROM THE FILM OFFICE (FY 2006 - 2007 COMPARED TO FY 2005-2006)		
	2005-6	2006-7
NUMBER OF FILM PERMITS ISSUED	285	311
NUMBER OF FILM DAYS	676	852
ANNUAL EST. ECONOMIC IMPACT	\$14.3 MILLION	\$21 MILLION



Minnie Driver and Eddie Izzard star in FX's hit drama "The Riches," pictured here on location at Hyatt Valencia in Santa Clarita.

Photo courtesy FX Network