

DCA's Produce Iowa partners with three Midwest states on feature film starring Shia LaBeouf and McCaul Lombardi

"American Honey" wraps production in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska

DES MOINES – Produce Iowa – State Office of Media Production today announced a feature film from award-winning British Director/Writer Andrea Arnold and starring Shia LaBeouf and McCaul Lombardi recently wrapped filming in Iowa and three other Midwest states. Produce Iowa is a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA).

The film, "American Honey," is Arnold's first U.S.-based production. Atypical of film production, it was shot in the sequence of the scenes and locations in the script. Arnold worked with a minimal crew and traveled from state to state and town to town, much like the thematic presence of the screenplay. She preferred this approach for this project to keep the storyline and character delivery fresh and alive.

To accommodate the multi-state production schedule, Produce Iowa collaborated with film organizations in Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska as the Mid States Film Commissions Partnership to facilitate site locations and provide technical assistance and other information.

"This regional partnership allows us to cast a wider net to make large-scale projects like these possible," Produce Iowa's Executive Producer Liz Gilman said. "We can provide producers with multiple resources in the Midwest that enhance a filmmaker's creative freedom. And within our state, the partnerships go further. Shirley Phillips with the Western Iowa Tourism Region was integral as they shot in the Missouri Valley area. The style of production on this film kept everyone on their toes with a minimum amount of prep time."

The film's Location Manager Mark Jarret said it is unusual to work in so many states in a short amount of time.

"The Midwest is beautiful and has many varied looks," he said. "This area is totally under-seen in film and television (and we're hoping it will provide a unique, visual backdrop for our project. Our shoot wouldn't have been possible in the manner we wanted to film without their support, creativity, and around-the-clock help. Working with these four (states) was like having an additional eight people on the crew. I can't thank them enough."

"American Honey" focuses on "a teenage girl with nothing to lose who joins a traveling magazine sales crew and gets caught up in a whirlwind of hard partying, law bending and young love as she crisscrosses the Midwest with a band of misfits." The film, produced by Parts and Labor Film of New York, is expected to be released in 2016.

In addition to Produce Iowa, the Mid States Film Commissions Partnership includes the Missouri Film Office, Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission, Kansas City Film + Media Office, and the Nebraska Film Office.

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The Mid States Film Commissions Partnership is comprised of seasoned professionals who understand the rhythm of the process of film and media production. Working together, the goals of the Partnership are to highlight the common assets of the Midwest area, strengthen the positive and timely delivery of services, and enhance the economic impact of partner states, all key elements that parallel other state's financial incentives.

For more information contact:

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- Nebraska Film Office, Laurie Richards at LRichards2@neb.rr.com

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and its three divisions – the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa-State Office of Media Production and the State Historical Society of Iowa – empower Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state. The department’s work enables Iowa to be recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations. www.culturalaffairs.org

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