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Hollywood brings money, stars, and acclaim to Montana

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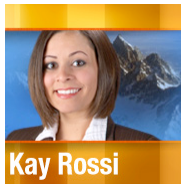
Hollywood probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind when one thinks about big business in Montana. But, the film industry has been moving in and helping the state's economy.

It's probably safe to say most Montanans are at least familiar with the classic story of a Montana family in Robert Redford's "A River Runs Through It;" it was based on a short story by Montana writer Norman Maclean. The early 1990's classic is not only about Big Sky Country, it was also filmed here.



Other major Hollywood movies shot wholly or partially in Montana include "Northfork," which was shot near Augusta and featured Darryl Hannah and Nick Nolte; "Holy Matrimony," which featured a look at life on a Hutterite colony and starred Kirstie Alley; Clint Eastwood's 70s hit "Thunderbolt And Lightfoot;" and "Broken Arrow," featuring John Travolta.

"Throughout the growth of Hollywood and over the years, Hollywood has been very attracted to Montana," said Sten Iverson, the Montana Film Office Manager.



Reporting from KXLH in Helena

The attraction has a lot to do with Montana's scenery and long summer daylight hours, but that's not all bringing in movie makers according to Iverson.

"The friendly people, and the fact that people are interested in the film industry and their not, they're happy to see Hollywood coming as opposed to wanting to shut their doors."

The 2005 "Big Sky on the Big Screen Act" is another reason some big blockbusters may choose to film in Montana. The act offers tax incentives on hired labor and services like hotels and restaurants.

"You're really looking at a small manufacturing company coming to a small town, or a large town in Montana, setting up a manufacturing plant, hiring people, building a product, and leaving without having any impact on your infrastructure," explained Iverson.

The production of feature films brings in revenue anywhere from \$100,000 a month to \$100,000 a day. It can also provide over a hundred jobs, many of which go to local Montanans.

Since 2005, the movie business has brought in \$38 million in revenue and the state's film office works every day to attract new customers.

Over 100 feature films have been made in Montana, seven of which were shot in Big Sky Country in just the last year.



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