



Mississippi Film Office  
Mississippi Development Authority, Division of Tourism  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mollie Murphy, 601-359-3505  
Date: January 8, 2003

***Mississippi Film Office unveils first Mississippi Film Tourism Map***

JACKSON, Miss. – In celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Mississippi Film Office, a bureau of Mississippi Development Authority’s (MDA) Division of Tourism is unveiling the state’s first Mississippi Film Tourism Map at an 11:00 a.m. press conference on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, in the Supreme Court Chamber of the New Capitol. This press conference will launch *Mississippi Film Week*, a weeklong celebration of the Mississippi Film Office’s 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will also provide attendees with an insight into Mississippi’s accomplishments in film over the past 30 years.

“The Movie Map of Mississippi celebrates film locations across the state and through the years,” said Ward Emling, manager of the Mississippi Film Office. “It provides a clear picture of the statewide impact of the film industry and will provide a base for tourism development in the countless communities that have hosted film production over the years. And it notes well those Mississippians who have played a role in this industry.”

The Mississippi Film Office was created on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1973. Beginning with *Thieves Like Us* (1973), more than 40 films, 21 documentaries, two television series, 24 television programs, and countless short films have been filmed in Mississippi. Since its creation, the film office has assisted directors in showcasing the works of such Mississippians as Larry Brown, William Faulkner, John Grisham, Beth Henley, Willie Morris, Thomas Hal Phillips, Eudora Welty, and Tennessee Williams, among others.

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Film production in Mississippi has accounted for more than \$100 million dollars in direct expenditure over the years and has generated hundreds of thousands of paychecks to Mississippians. The production of *A Time to Kill* alone extended 10,000 checks. “We have seen that film production is economic development,” said Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of MDA. “The Mississippi Film Office is committed to creating a competitive film industry here that will continue to bring solid growth to our state.”

The week’s activities will include Monday’s press conference launching the week’s events, a ribbon cutting for Mississippi’s first Film Enterprise Zone in Canton on Wednesday, and a birthday party on Friday morning in the Rotunda of the New Capitol. Communities across the state will be showcasing made-in-Mississippi films throughout the week. Local Convention & Visitors Bureaus can be contacted for more information on Mississippi Film Week movies. All events are free and are open to the general public.

For more information on the week’s events or on the Mississippi Film Office, contact Ward Emling at 601-359-3297 or visit the Division of Tourism’s website at [www.visitmississippi.org](http://www.visitmississippi.org).

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