

# Filming in Los Angeles County

# **Los Angeles County**

# 2008 YEAR END REPORT

Current Produc	TION	Dата	
Description	Days	Permits	Locations
Television	1812	547	875
Feature Film	897	247	527
Still Photo	842	545	667
Commercial	808	426	667
Student	398	172	228
Miscellaneous	175	89	133
Music Video	87	69	80
Documentary	86	37	45
Industrial Video	53	26	37
Infomercial	12	9	10
Premiere	1	1	1
TOTAL	5,171	2,168	3,270



Did You Know?
FilmL.A.'s
eNotification
program delivers
Notices of Filming
via email and
currently serves
ten different area
neighborhoods.

## **ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FILMING**

- A single day of on-location filming provides direct employment for 96 to 1,300 people, depending on the production category (feature, television show or commercial) and budget.
- The cost to produce just a single episode of a television series varies, from \$850K for reality programming to \$3 million or more for a typical television drama.\*
- FilmL.A.'s contract with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) helped public schools in the County earn \$1,275,319 in film revenues in 2008.

\* Source: CFC / LAEDC

## RECENT PRODUCTIONS IN THE COUNTY

Curious to know what's been filming in Los Angeles? Here are a few of the productions that were working on-location in LA County throughout 2008:

1. CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	(television drama)
2. Keep California Beautiful	(commercial, PSA)
3. <i>Lexus</i>	(commercial)
4. Powerade	(commercial, internet)
5. State Farm	(commercial)
6. Stupid Criminals	(television reality)
7. Savage	(music video)
8. <i>The Soloist</i>	(feature film)
9. Twenty Six Miles	(television pilot)
10. <i>Yo Gabba Gabba</i>	(television sitcom)

#### **OBSERVATIONS & ANALYSIS**

 Here are the most-filmed County Districts for 2008, measured in total permitted days of on-location production.

Rank	District Official		Days	
1.	5	Antonovich	2,967	
2.	3	Yaroslavsky	1,497	
3.	4	Knabe	448	
4.	1	Molina	181	
5.	2	Ridley-Thomas	78	

Total on-location filming in the County is DOWN 3.3% in comparison to 2007.



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# HOW FILMING AFFECTS YOUR CONSTITUENTS

FilmL.A. devotes considerable resources to reducing the impact of filming on local communities.

Here are some of the ways FilmL.A. works on their behalf:

- PARKING CONCERNS: Lack of available parking concerns all Angelenos, most especially when film crews come to the neighborhood. Businesses whose customers rely on metered street parking are particularly affected. To reduce these impacts, FilmL.A. uses Google Maps and results from Neighborhood Filming Surveys to evaluate full street closure requests. FilmL.A. regularly prohibits cast and crew parking on area streets and limits the amount of curbside space allowed for parking of production equipment. We also assist production companies to set up base camps away from their physical filming location, to keep their footprint at the location as small and unobtrusive as possible.
- FILMING HOURS: Standard filming hours in residential areas are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekends. FilmL.A. requires production companies wishing to film outside of these hours to conduct door-to-door Neighborhood Filming Surveys in nearby areas to help us gauge the potential community impact of their proposed activities. FilmL.A. recommends that permitting authorities approve extended hours only after the production company agrees to address legitimate concerns uncovered by the survey.
- NOTIFICATION CONCERNS: FilmL.A. takes seriously its responsibility to provide advance Notices of Filming to area communities, and our field services department works in three daily shifts to ensure timely delivery of this service. Internal controls strictly dictate printing and processing timeframes, in addition to allocating work among delivery drivers to reduce total vehicle mileage. In addition, FilmL.A has introduced a supplementary email-based notification service, which currently covers ten different area neighborhoods, including all parts of downtown Los Angeles.
- EXCESSIVE NOISE: Noise complaints are usually related to vendor set-up and breakdown, electrical generator positioning, special effects use, crew conversation or filming activity performed outside of standard filming hours. During the permit coordination process FilmL.A. uses Google Earth, Neighborhood Filming Survey results and other tools to evaluate the proposed placement of equipment, extras holding and catering areas. FilmL.A. staff are also on-call 24/7 to respond to filming issues, so if residents express concerns with noise, we can aid them by asking production companies to quiet their activities.
- FILMING FREQUENCY: Opinions regarding "over-frequent filming" are usually very subjective and necessarily so as neighborhood configurations differ in their ability to accommodate on-location filming. As part of the permit process, FilmL.A. employees now conduct random frequency checks to gauge potential over-use of area locations. If our records show that an area has received more filming than is consistent with similar neighborhoods, FilmL.A. will analyze the types of recent filming activity, the physical configuration of area streets, and the neighboring properties most affected. We then consult with our client jurisdictions to seek ways to mitigate the impact or give areas a rest from filming.

# OUR SERVICE TO YOUR CONSTITUENTS

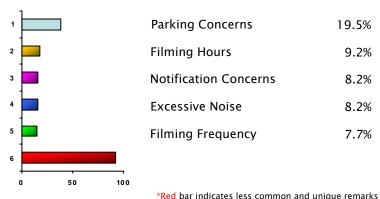
• District Filming Satisfaction Index:

96.2

- FilmL.A.'s Filming Satisfaction Index measures negative comments received against filming volume for the given period. Higher scores are better.
- Your score of 96.2 means that FilmL.A. received 3.8 negative comments for every 100 permitted days of film production taking place in the County.
- Individual districts in the County of Los Angeles returned Index scores ranging from 95.6 to 99.8.
- The Satisfaction Index measures both the professionalism of film crews working on-location, and FilmL.A.'s overall success at community outreach, permit coordination and conflict prevention.

## TOP CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

FilmL.A. tracks and analyzes all comments received from the community. Based on the 195 negative comments received throughout the County in 2008, we identify these five issues as those of greatest concern to area communities.



FilmL.A., Inc., the County's partner in film permit coordination and neighborhood care, has prepared this report to allow you and your staff to view recent filming activity in your district. For more information on anything included here, or for answers to questions about filming in your district, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**HOW TO INTERPRET THIS REPORT**: FilmL.A. measures production activity in "Permitted Production Days." A production day is defined as a single film crew, working on a single project, at a single location, for all or part of any given 24 hour period. The number of film permits and film locations has no direct correlation to the number of film days, because a single permit may include multiple locations for filming over an extended duration. This report covers only on-location production coordinated by FilmL.A. and does not include filming taking place on certified sound stages.