

The Evil

Longmire

HISTORIC
LAS VEGAS NEW MEXICO
FILM
TOUR GUIDE

No Country For Old Men

Speechless

Easy Rider

Red Dawn



Paul

Due Date

Blind Horizon

WELCOME!

On behalf of the City of Las Vegas, we would like to welcome you to beautiful Las Vegas, New Mexico! Our community has been the host to dozens of productions, including thirty silent films shot between 1913 and 1915 by Romaine Fielding (Lubin Films) and Tom Mix (Selig Polyscope). The following film tour will take you on a journey through history from the days of Fielding and Mix to present.

Las Vegas is of particular interest to the film industry, as it offers a complete package of unique settings that cannot be found together anywhere else in the state. To the West, Las Vegas boasts breathtaking mountains, and to the East, grassy plains. There are two lakes within minutes of town and a castle that sits in the hills. Homes and businesses range from Queen Anne, Bungalow, Richardsonian Romanesque, Italianate, New Mexico Territorial, Pueblo Revival, and Folk Renaissance Revival architecture and the streets offer varied characteristics that have portrayed cities and towns from Manhattan to Juarez, Mexico. Las Vegas truly is a filmmaker's playground!

LV Film Commission

"Walk through Las Vegas and you walk through film history, from Silent Movies to Oscar winners. The reason it looks like a film set is because it is one, a living breathing film set."

Jon Hendry
Business Agent, IATSE Local 480

"I would love to shoot something in New Mexico. Las Vegas is such a beautiful place!"



Kal Penn
Actor, "Harold & Kumar"



"Shooting in Las Vegas and the surrounding area is like shooting the Director's dream....great light, multiple period options, film-friendly people and positive support."

Alton Walpole
Unit Production Manager (DGA) & Line Producer, Mountainair Films

Filmed in & around LAS VEGAS, NM

2013 Hate From a Distance
2013 The Homesman
2012 Vegas/TV Pilot
2011-13 Longmire/TV
2011 Don't Stop Believing in Las Vegas!/Music Video
2010 Bless Me, Ultima
2010 True Grit
2010 Before We Say Goodbye
2010 Haywire *aka* "Knockout"
2010 Due Date
2009 Paul
2009 Friendship!
2008 Georgia O'Keefe/TV
2008 Beer For My Horses
2008 Inhale *aka* "Run for Her Life"
2008 Not Forgotten
2008 Brothers
2007 Everywhere/Tim McGraw Music Video
2006 Comanche Moon/TV
2006 Fanboys
2006 No Country For Old Men
2006 Wild Hogs
2005 The Astronaut Farmer
2005 North Country
2005 The Clan (outside city limits)
2004 The Longest Yard
2003 Blind Horizon
2001 Land of Enchantment/TV
2001 Freedom Downtime
2000 All the Pretty Horses
1999 Im Land Der Letzen Cowboys/TV Germany
1998 The Hi-Lo Country
1998 John Carpernter's Vampires
1997 Walker, Texas Ranger: Last of a Breed/TV
1996 Last Stand at Saber River/TV
1996 The Lazarus Man/TV
1996 Infinity
1995 East Meets West
1994 Buffalo Girls/TV
1994 Cultivating Charlie
1994 Speechless
1994 Wyatt Earp
1993 The Last Hit/TV
1992 God Drives a Pontiac
1992 Miracle in the Wilderness/TV
1991 Lucky Luke/TV
1991 To Save a Child/TV
1986 Blue de Ville/TV
1985 A Fool for Love
1985 Little Treasure
1984 Red Dawn
1982 The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez/TV
1979 Five Days From Home
1978 Convoy
1978 The Evil
1976 Charlie Siringo/TV
1975 Sweet Hostage/TV
1972 Molly and Lawless John
1969 Easy Rider
1962 Empire and Redigo/TV
1915 Selig Polyscope/Tom Mix (20 Silent Films)
1913 Lubin Films/Romaine Fielding (10 Silent Films)

1



Courtesy of the City of Las Vegas Museum

"THE RATTLESNAKE" 1913, Romaine Fielding
(Montezuma Castle in background)

2



Courtesy of the NM Film Office
Walle Landenberger Jess Robinson Film Collection,

"THE GOLDEN GOD" 1913, Romaine Fielding
(Masonic Temple, 518 Douglas Avenue) Call 505-699-6639 to schedule a building tour.

3



Courtesy of the NM Film Office
Walle Landenberger Jess Robinson Film Collection,

"THE SHEEPHERDER" 1913, Romaine Fielding
(Jess Robinson with the original Buster Brown and his dog, Tide, on the Plaza)

Silent Films in the Meadow City

In 1913, Las Vegas welcomed Romaine Fielding, Lubin Films leading actor-director-writer, and producer, and his entire cast and crew with open arms. At the time, Fielding had been voted "The Most Popular Photoplayer in America" by moving picture fans. For the next six months Las Vegas was transformed into a motion picture center complete with studio facilities where sets and stages and locations throughout town, and in Montezuma, would proliferate in the filming of ten films. One of them "The Golden God," at a cost of $50,000, was the most expensive film made in the United States that year. Fielding's name, after all these years, is still visible on the side of the Plaza Hotel (a "Ghost Sign"), which he leased during his stay in Las Vegas.

Realizing the economic impact left behind by the Lubin Film company, prompted the Las Vegas Commercial Club (a precursor to the Chamber of Commerce) to produce a national print campaign promoting the town and its environs to major film studios as a location destination. And it worked. In 1915, Ludwig Ilfeld, a prominent Las Vegas merchant, and his wife traveled to Los Angeles to follow-up on inquiries made by the studios that replied to the ad campaign, and convinced the Selig Polyscope Film Company to send a location company and their star attraction, Tom Mix, to Las Vegas, where they produced 20 films. Tom Mix's last film before leaving was a documentary about the Las Vegas Fire Department, which he financed himself and donated to the city.

John Armijo
Film Historian & Research
NM Film Office

"The Golden God," at a cost of $50,000, was the most expensive film made in the United States that year.



Courtesy of the New Mexico Film Office

"THE GOLDEN GOD" 1915, Romaine Fielding

4 Hotel Romaine

The director, actor, writer, and cinematographer, **Romaine Fielding** (1868-1927), was drawn to the beauty and potential of Las Vegas as a permanent filming destination. Fielding based his production company (Lubin Films) out of the Plaza Hotel, naming it "Hotel Romaine." In fact, you can still see his name on the side of the building.

Dispenza, Joseph. 1998. The Romance of New Mexico. In "100 Years of Filmmaking in New Mexico," 1898-1998, ed. Mikelle Cosandaey and Jon Bowman, pp. 13-14.



Historic Plaza Hotel, 230 Plaza
Courtesy of the Historic Plaza Hotel

5 Original Cowboy, Tom Mix

"Las Vegas has been a favorite setting and location for films since the beginning of the film industry. One of the first to discover it was Tom Mix who stopped there on a train ride from Hollywood to Pennsylvania (his home). He got off that train, started exploring town, and fell in love with the place. [...] He loved the variety of western terrain and the people of Las Vegas who made everything easy for his productions. He said if he ever could break away from Hollywood, he'd move to Las Vegas and live out his days there." **www.nenewmexico.com**



Tom Mix
Courtesy of the NM Film Office

6 Serf Theater



Douglas Avenue (Image from "Red Dawn" 1984)
Courtesy of the Judee Williams Collection

7 KIVA Theater

Las Vegas business directories show a theater called The Mutual in 1919 on the south side of Bridge Street at approximately the same location as the Kiva. The Kiva Theater appeared in the 1940 business directory and still entertains patrons today. For show times and listings, call 505-454-0152.



109 Bridge Street
Courtesy of the City of Las Vegas Museum



Bridge Street
Courtesy of the City of Las Vegas Museum

8 "Easy Rider" (1969)

Starring **Peter Fonda**, **Dennis Hopper,** and **Jack Nicholson**, "Easy Rider" is a cult classic that lives on in Las Vegas during the Rough Rider Motorcycle Rally every summer. Scenes were filmed on Bridge Street in front of the E. Romero Hose & Fire Co. station and in Plaza Park. Visit the Hillcrest Restaurant, 1106 Grand Avenue, to meet one of the actresses (ask for Karen). Stop by Tito's Gallery, 157 Bridge Street, to learn more about the film shoot (ask for Mary or Tito).



Bridge Street

9 "The Evil" (1978)

This film was shot at Montezuma Castle, now home to the United World College (the only UWC in the US). For castle tour dates and times, please call 505-426-3361.

"A chilling tale of suspense and survival. When a doctor rents a haunted house to use as a clinic, he and his associates are victimized by supernatural powers within." **www.imdb.com**


Montezuma Castle
Courtesy of Andy Kingsbury

10 "Convoy" (1978)

Starring **Kris Kristofferson** and **Ali MacGraw**, this film is based on the Country song, "Convoy," by C.W. McCall. Locations include Plaza Park and the Rustic Relay Restaurant (now Pancho's Roadside Cafe, 1154 Grand).



Plaza Park

"Cause we got a little convoy rockin' through the night. Yeah, we got a little convoy, ain't she a beautiful sight?"
-Song Lyrics

11 "The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez" (1982)

This American Playhouse TV Series, starring **Edward James Olmos** (pictured below), filmed scenes around Plaza Park. Meet the boy in the picture and learn about LV film at the Historic Plaza Hotel (ask for Mykle or Sean).



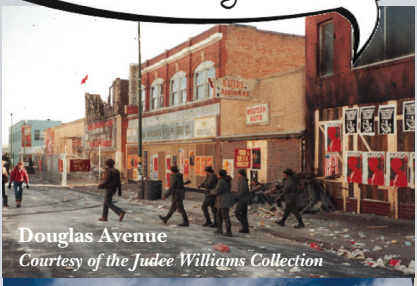
Plaza Park
Courtesy of the Judee Williams Collection


MEXICO
MEXICO
PARK
1st
2nd
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12th
MILLS AVE
REYNOLDS
FRIEDMAN
BACA AVE
WASHINGTON
COLUMBIA
NATIONAL
RAILROAD AVE.
GRAND AVE.
UNIVERSITY
DOUGLAS
BRIDGE ST.
INDEP.
S. COMMERCE
CALLINAS RIVER
25
518
CINDER RD.
MILLS
ENCINO
N. GONZALES
S. GONZ.
MORENO
HOT SPRINGS
MONTEZUMA
65
85
S. PACIFIC
UNION
NEW MEXICO AVE
GORDON'S JEWELRY
WOOL
JRPHEY'S
CocaCola
DRUGS
SODA FOUNTAIN
SERF
KIVA
CASINO
KIVA
OUR TOWN
CAFE
ESTELLA'S CAFE
ESTELLA'S
COMICS
PLAZA HOTEL
FIFO

12 "Red Dawn" (1984)

This apocalyptic cult classic was filmed almost entirely in Las Vegas. The "Welcome to Calumet (Colorado)" sign still stands at the corner of Grand Avenue & 6th Street. Other locations include the Ft. Union Drive-in Theatre (Prison Camp), the historic Castaneda Hotel, Memorial Middle School (Invasion at beginning of movie), Douglas Avenue, East Lincoln Street, and Grand Avenue.

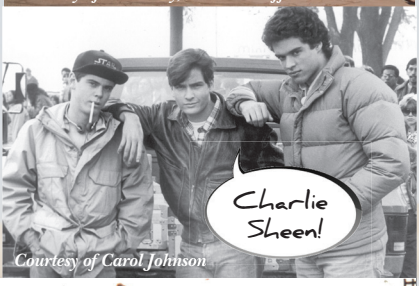
Fun Fact: Patrick Swayze bought a ranch just miles outside of town after falling in love with the scenic beauty surrounding Las Vegas.



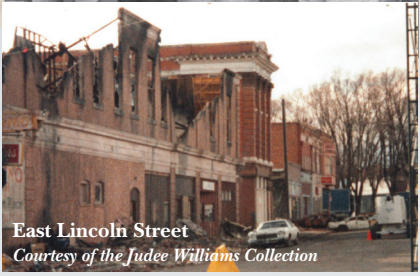
Douglas Avenue
Courtesy of the Judee Williams Collection



6th Street and Grand Avenue
Courtesy of Don Gray, NM Film Office



Courtesy of Carol Johnson



East Lincoln Street
Courtesy of the Judee Williams Collection

13 "Speechless" (1994)

This romantic comedy, starring **Michael Keaton** and **Geena Davis**, was filmed in a number of Las Vegas locations including the Castaneda Hotel, Bridge Street, and Plaza Park. The office scenes took place inside the old parachute factory building (Navajo Textiles) located on the south side of Plaza Park.



Old Parachute Factory (Navajo Textiles), S. Plaza

Fun Fact: Geena Davis enjoyed the raspberry jam gift baskets from the Salman Ranch in Buena Vista, NM, located off HWY 518.

14 "All the Pretty Horses" (2000)

Matt Damon and **Penelope Cruz** starred in this Western romantic drama. Locations include the historic Castaneda Hotel, historic Train Depot, and Murphy's Drugs (now Community 1st Bank).



Castaneda Hotel, Railroad Avenue
Photo courtesy of Andy Kingsbury

Fun Fact: Penelope Cruz was singing opera on set...she has a beautiful voice!

15 "Blind Horizon" (2003)

"Blind Horizon," starring **Val Kilmer**, **Neve Campbell**, **Faye Dunaway**, **Sam Shepard,** and **Amy Smart**, was filmed at Plaza Park, the Historic Castaneda Hotel, Railroad Avenue, East Lincoln Street (La Cantina, now SW Financial), 6th Street, and the State Cafe (now closed, Grand Avenue).



Fun Fact: Neve Campbell kicked back at Razors Tattoos with the owner, Ray. Visit Ray at 162 Bridge Street to talk film.



6th Street between Douglas & Grand Avenue

16 "The Astronaut Farmer" (2006)

"The Astronaut Farmer," starring Academy Award winner, **Billy Bob Thornton**, was filmed at L'Esperance Dairy Queen, 200 Columbia Avenue.



"Working with this production was an amazing experience and an honor. Billy Bob is a genuinly nice guy. "

Oliver L'Esperance, ***Property Owner***

17 "No Country For Old Men" (2007)

This Academy Award winning film, directed by **Joel & Ethan Coen**, was shot throughout Las Vegas in locations that include the Historic Plaza Hotel (Lobby), Douglas Avenue (Between 6th & 7th), University Avenue Overpass/Exit 345 (Mexico Border), the El Camino Motel (Rm #106, now the Knights Inn), Pancho's Roadside Cafe, the Regal Motel (Rm #138), and Popular Dry Goods. Stop by the Plaza Hotel (230 Plaza) to take a picture behind the registration desk used in the film.



Pancho's Roadside Cafe, 1154 Grand Avenue

18 "Paul" (2009)

"Paul" is a sci-fi comedy starring **Seth Rogan** (Paul), **Simon Pegg**, **Jason Bateman**, **Kristen Wiig**, **Nick Frost**, and **Bill Hader**. Filming took place on Bridge Street (comic book store) and on South Gonzales Street between the Navajo Textiles building and the West Las Vegas Schools Administration building (gun scene with Jason Bateman).



Bridge Street
Courtesy of Roy Montibon



Courtesy of Razors Tattoos

"I think the most interesting [story about "Paul"] is how real the production made Eli's Comics look. There were many kids in town who kept asking the security guard sitting outside when the "shop" was going to open. They didn't believe him when he said it was a movie set, I think many of them were genuinely disappointed."

Roy Montibon & Julie Tumblety, ***"Comic Store" Property Owners***

19 "Due Date" (2010)

"Due Date," a comedy starring **Robert Downey Jr.** and **Zach Galifianakis**, was filmed on the University Avenue Overpass (Mexico border crossing), as well as below the University Avenue overpass, and the Sunshine Motel on Grand Avenue. It took several weeks to construct the border crossing and made for some very confused tourists!



University Avenue Overpass/Exit 345
Photo courtesy of Melinda Sue Gordon



University Avenue Overpass/Exit 345
Photo courtesy of Melinda Sue Gordon



Below University Avenue Overpass/Exit 345
Photo courtesy of Melinda Sue Gordon

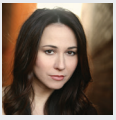


Sunshine Motel, 1201 N. Grand Avenue
Photo courtesy of Melinda Sue Gordon

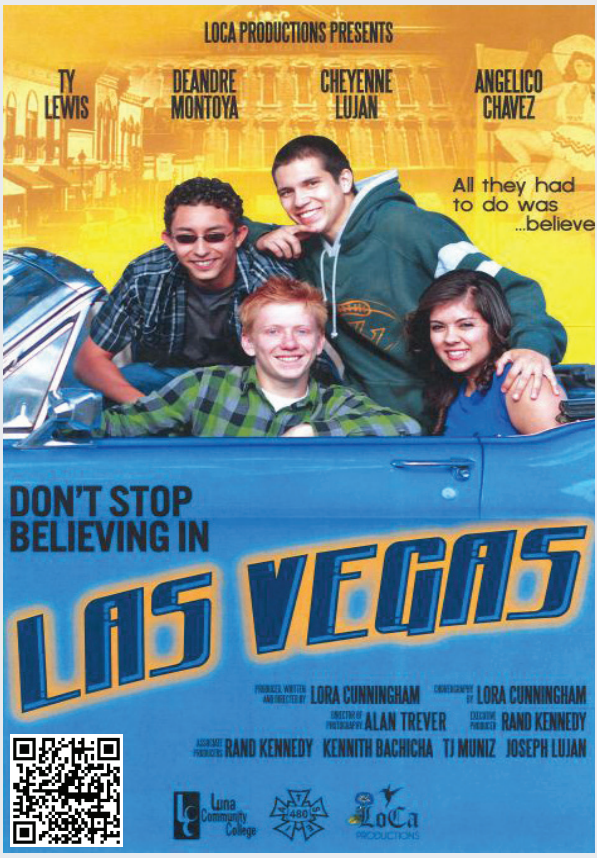
20 "Don't Stop Believing in Las Vegas!" (2011)

A partnership production of Luna Community College, the International Alliance for Stage Theatrical Employees (IATSE 480), LoCa Productions, West Las Vegas High School, Robertson High School, ENMU, WNMU, and NMSU-Grants. During the production, IATSE provided a professional film crew to work with high school and college students to produce the film. The main purpose of the event was to provide a unique educational opportunity for Las Vegas high school and college students.

"There is a peace in Las Vegas, a calmness and a weight...a groundedness in its rich history, authentic architecture and good people. It's a special place. You can just feel it."



Lora Martinez-Cunningham
Actress, "The Book of Eli"



Poster courtesy of IATSE Local 480

21 "Longmire" (2011-16)

"Longmire" is a modern Western crime series set in fictional Durant, Wyoming, that airs on A&E. It is based on the novels by author Craig Johnson. The TV series has made a long term home in Las Vegas, using locations that include Plaza Park, Bridge Street, the Veeder Building, and historic Ft. Union Drive-in Theater.



Lou Diamond Phillips
Actor, "Longmire"

"I love shooting in Las Vegas, New Mexico! The people are incredibly warm, supportive and welcoming to our production. I truly appreciate their cooperation and goodwill since we shoot there so often."



Veeder Building, West Plaza





Veeder Building, West Plaza

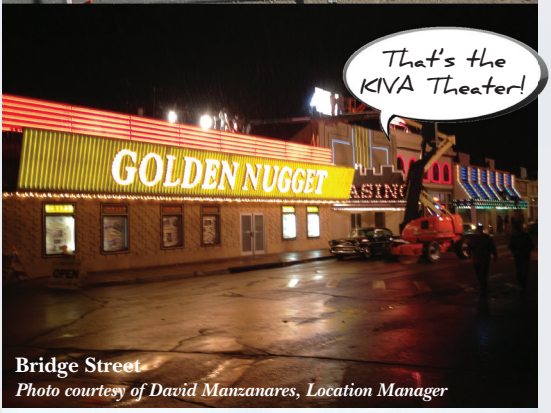
Photo of Lou Diamond Phillips © 2012 WBEI. All rights reserved.

22 "Vegas" (2012)

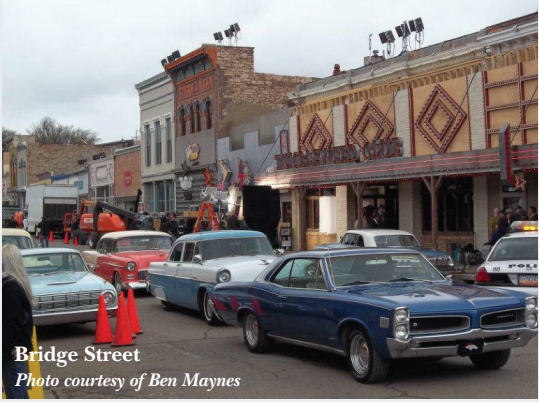
How ironic that Las Vegas, NM, stands in as Las Vegas, NV, in the CBS pilot "Vegas" starring **Dennis Quaid** and **Michael Chiklis**. The elaborate set on Bridge Street took several weeks to complete and, in the end, took us back in time 50 years. The most unexpected turn of events during the shoot was the SNOW (in April) that continued throughout the two days of shooting on Bridge Street! Other "Vegas" locations include the historic roundhouse on Grand Avenue and the Las Vegas Airport.



Las Vegas Airport



Bridge Street
Photo courtesy of David Manzanares, Location Manager



Bridge Street
Photo courtesy of Ben Maynes



Las Vegas Film Commission

The Film Commission would like to extend a special thanks to former Vice-Chair, José Marquez, and former Board Members, Kerry Loewen and Kenneth Bachicha, for their assistance with this project.

A special thanks to the NM Film Office and to Shalie Gasper with the NM Historic Preservation Division for their support and assistance.

Amy Caldwell
Fine Artist

Amy has been a fine artist and illustrator in San Miguel County for forty years. "I follow my mother in art, and love my town! Thanks to Katy Withnall for an accurate City map."

Joseph Lujan
Consultant

Joseph is a Las Vegas native and has worked in film locations in New Mexico since 2003.

Lindsey Valdez
Project Manager & Brochure Designer

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www.visitlasvegasnm.com

Las Vegas, NM Film Location Guide (2012) / Project #35-11-31938.16

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