



Louisiana lift for films

TK/LA will serve as exclusive vendor for industry names

Sep. 28, 2006

By Bashirah Muttalib

Producers Gary Strangis and Bernie Laramie have launched TurnKey/Louisiana, a film production support company, to enhance the state's production lure.

TK/LA opened its doors this week in Shreveport with plans to broker goods and services to facilitate film production and qualify them as "in-state spend" under Louisiana's current tax-incentive guidelines.

That, according to TK/LA's founders, translates into the latest in digital camera systems, lighting and grip equipment, on-location communication packages, digital dailies, editing systems and a complete array of post-production support, including film and digital lab work and virtual editing.

Company will serve as an exclusive Louisiana vendor for industry names such as Cinelease & Expandable Plus, Wexler Video, Coffey Sound, InterVideo, Fairfield Studios of Shreveport, Wilshire Editorial, Westwind Media and West Post.

"By linking an extensive array of established, complementary, industry-leading vendors, we've formed a 'virtual back lot' in one of Louisiana's main production arteries," said Strangis, whose credits include "The Practice" and "Ally McBeal." "And since TK/LA retains no studio affiliation, its vast services are available to the entire filmmaking community."

In addition, TK/LA boasts an exclusive license to provide MOS Sync's Minutes technology, which allows instant dailies on location regardless of the format or camera used for shooting.

According to Strangis, that exclusivity also means better rates for the filmmaker. "As a producer, I know what it's like to be in a different state or a foreign country and having to use whatever equipment is available. This consortium creates a brand that allows us to become a facilitator. TK/LA is able to get a preferred vendor rate, and we can pass that on to the filmmaker," he said.

The cost of doing business with TK/LA will not involve sharing the 25% tax incentive due the producer. "We don't feel entitled to a piece of the tax credit," said Strangis, referring to the state's film incentive allowing tax credits of up to 25% for in-state expenses.

With Louisiana film revenues for 2006 projected at more than \$700 million and Shreveport accounting for more than \$200 million in the first six months, Strangis and Laramie believe Shreveport, with its diverse looks, has the potential to become a film production center.

The duo have a two-pronged approach to their TK/LA operation: Strangis oversees the production and Louisiana-based operations from the Shreveport office; Laramie oversees post-production operations and the Los Angeles office.