

Connecticut company launches campaign to attract international producers

Jeremy Kay in Los Angeles

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The Connecticut Film Center (CFC) will reach out to international producers at Cannes next month in a bid to strengthen its claim to be one of the most attractive production locations on the East Coast.

CFC representatives will be on the Croisette to promote the company's facilities, the state's aggressive 30% tax credit for both above- and below-the-line expenses for qualifying in-state productions, and the weak dollar.

CFC's new division CFC Capital will provide incentive and gap financing of up to 40% of a film's budget in addition to monetising the tax credit.

Qualifying international producers who spend a minimum of \$50,000 will be able to receive upfront financing from CFC for their films in return for transferable tax credits generated when filming all or part of their movie in the state.

Yesterday New York Governor David Paterson officially sanctioned legislation that tripled that State's tax credit for below-the-line expenses to 30%.

Films that are shooting or have shot in Connecticut include the current Sam Mendes untitled comedy for Focus Features, as well as his previous film *Revolutionary Road* with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, Jerry Bruckheimer-produced *Confessions Of A Shopaholic* with Isla Fisher and John Goodman, Barry Levinson's *What Just Happened?* and The Weinstein Company's *Factory Girl* with Sienna Miller.

CFC sources said the State had attracted more than \$300m in production over the last 18 months.

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