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# Shyamalan's "Unbreakable" Loyalty to Philly Shattered by Pa. Budget

I see (brain) dead people—in the state senate

By TERESA MASTERSON

Updated 12:15 PM EDT, Tue, Aug 25, 2009

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Getty

The one filmmaker to be ever-loyal to Philadelphia has been forced to relocate his latest film production to Canada, reports the Inquirer.

With Harrisburg dragging its feet on the state budget, M. Night Shyamalan has no guarantee that film tax credits will be approved.

Shyamalan's newest venture Devil was set to film in the Philadelphia region up until last week, when the production withdrew its application for the uncertain tax credits. Shyamalan has filmed eight of his nine feature films in the Philadelphia area, the last one—"The Last Airbender"—wrapping only a few months ago.

Say what you will about Shyamalan's luke-warm success since his highly acclaimed The Sixth Sense, the man has brought jobs and about \$375 million to the local economy, says the Inquirer.

Motivated by the incredible state tax incentive programs that began in 2004, more filmmakers followed Shyamalan's lead. This brought jobs, money, and the likes of Jack Nicholson, Zoëy Deschanel, Jamie Foxx, Gerard Butler, Shia LeBeouf, Jeff Daniels, Jennifer Aniston, Megan Fox, Mark Wahlberg, Reece Witherspoon, Luke Wilson and Owen Wilson to our city streets.

The tax incentive program that began in 2004 awards a 20 percent tax credit to film production that spend 60 percent of more of their budget in the state. That was followed by a second initiative in 2006, which provides grants of up to \$2 million or 20 percent of production expenses.

Why be so generous to the film community? The industry has a rare characteristic: It only spends where it is, it never takes, said Sharon Pinkenson, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.

When a production comes to Pennsylvania, it hires local workers, rents local trucks and equipment, pays local and state taxes, stays in local hotels,

60%

20%

17%

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### SCARGOSUN

Maybe he will buy a house there, or two. Maybe he will do it in an area where there are a lot of horse farms and then request that horses not be ridden next to his fence line even though people have ridden horses there for generations. Maybe they will allow him to put up an illegal deer fence...just like another town/township did in exchange for a 'donation'.

12:32 PM, 8.25.09

### TALLGIRL

There goes jobs and profits for Philadelphia..

12:21 PM, 8.25.09



What The?

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Anonymous | Aug 16 at 9:13 PM

Let's never forget what Vick did. Animal cruelty is a terrible, unthinkable crime. He may have paid his dues, but he will never have a

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President Obama nominated Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke for a second term Tuesday, a senior official said.

eats at local restaurants and drinks at local bars. When a film is wrapped, it takes nothing away from the area, and leaves millions of dollars in the local economy in its wake.

"All of the people that come here [for a film shoot] pay taxes," said Pinkenson. "It's really a bonanza for the state."

If the state doesn't get its act together, we're going to lose more than our celebrity-sighting bragging rights.

First Published: Aug 25, 2009 11:02 AM EDT

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**FUNNYSTUFF**

Great job Legislators! keep up the good work! Betcha if they were threatened to not get paid (like city workers) unless they came up with a budget, how quickly they would come up with a budget.

12:20 PM, 8.25.09

**TALLGIRL**

There goes jobs and profits for Philadelphia..

12:21 PM, 8.25.09

3 COMMENTS

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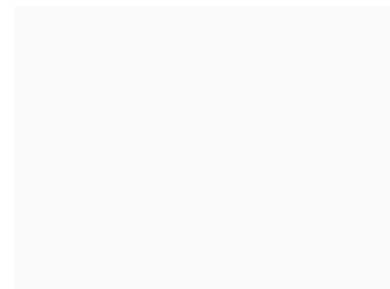
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