



## Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit Lures **HOLLYWOOD** **PRODUCTIONS**

**Richard Fike** is the director of Stunt Predators USA & SFX, an Ohio-based group of stunt and special effects professionals. Stunt Predators employs 35 team members consisting of men, women and children. Based in Madison, it is the only professional stunt group in the Midwest.

Stunt Predators can handle anything from stunt driving to falling down stairs, throwing punches, falls from high places or walking through fire. In addition to physical stunts, Fike is authorized to use special effects, pyrotechnics, weapons and high explosives.

In 2011, with help from the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, Fike's company landed six feature films and one commercial. Twenty-eight stunt professionals worked on *Fun Size*, six worked on *Boot Tracks*, three on *Alex Cross*, two on *Seven Below* and four on *The Avengers*. Assistance from the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit has helped to double Fike's work and is a powerful motivator for his employees to remain in Ohio, rather than move elsewhere. "Since receiving the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, not only has our work increased, we have all benefited from additional training and workshops for individuals who are interested in getting into the stunt business," says Fike.

For Fike, the movie *Seven Below*, shot in Goshen, stands out. He was hired to crash a nine-passenger van into a tree. Fike credits his successes in 2011 to the tax credit program. "I could have moved to L.A. and worked a lot, but my family is here. This is home. I love Ohio."

Scott Handel also enjoys the perks of Ohio's Hollywood business. Handel owns Ohio HD

Video, a camera and equipment rental company based in Columbus.

Ohio HD Video has steadily grown to provide producers with top-notch crews and has the largest camera inventory in the state. Its Ohio-based crews have tackled projects in 49 states and 17 countries. Ohio HD projects include *Fun Size* as well as work with the Discovery Channel and Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios.

"The production world has become a lot more complicated in the past few years," says Handel. New cameras, formats and work flow have made it necessary to rethink how a project manager deals with data, archiving and color grading. With assistance from the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, Ohio HD Video has adapted to the industry's needs by hosting camera training classes, seminars and industry gatherings.

The past two years have been a time of growth and expansion for Ohio HD Video. "The Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit has increased our higher-end rentals significantly, giving us the confidence to continue to invest in new camera equipment. We have also hired two full-time employees and several dozen freelancers since 2010 to help with the workload," says Handel.

These two are just a few of the many Ohio business owners who love to hear the word, "Action!" Since the inception of the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, 31 projects have taken advantage of the program. These projects employed 13,598 individuals, and more than \$98 million was spent in Ohio as a result of the projects. Small businesses across the state look forward to big Hollywood hits continuing to come this way.

*For more information, call (614) 466-2711 or 1800)848-1300, or email [support@checkohiofirst.com](mailto:support@checkohiofirst.com).*