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BLOCKBUSTER SUMMER OF PRODUCTION KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

"Lights, Camera, Action" will be Heard all Summer Long in Chicago as the City Takes Center Stage for Filming of Movies and TV Shows; Films to Generate \$ 51 Million in Local Jobs and Economic Development; An Unprecedented Six Network Television Series will also be Filmed

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Film Office, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), announced today that two blockbuster productions will film here this summer: Warner Bros "Jupiter Ascending," and the latest sequel for "Transformers" from Paramount Studios. In addition, an unprecedented six network television series will also be filmed entirely in Chicago beginning this summer and fall.

"We've always known that Chicago has beautiful backdrops and a thriving creative community, and over the course of the last few years, the film industry has made this discovery as well," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "These film and television projects will continue to grow our local creative workforce, keeping jobs right here at home in Chicago."

The Warner Bros feature "Jupiter Ascending" is a science fiction thriller starring Channing Tatum and is directed by Chicagoans Andy and Lana Wachowski, creators of the "Matrix" films and more recently "Cloud Atlas." Filming in Chicago began this weekend and continues through the end of August.

Warner Bros estimates that "Jupiter Ascending" will generate \$24 million in local jobs and economic development. Paramount Studios estimates that "Transformers" will generate \$27 million in local jobs and economic development.

The movie's many action and aerial sequences will be filmed primarily in the central business district. City officials will provide public updates on road closures, low flying helicopters and stunts associated with the production.

The Chicago Police and Fire Departments as well as the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) will provide the resources necessary to ensure public safety and manage essential operations. These resources and the cost all city services provided to film productions are paid in full by the producers with no use of municipal tax payer dollars.

"Jupiter Ascending" starts just as the Lionsgate feature film "Divergent" is winding down. "Divergent," which began filming here in April and stars Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet, is the first in a potential film franchise based on the novels of Evanston author Veronica Roth.

This August, "Transformers" returns for the next installment of high octane Autobot vs. Decepticon action. The final battle sequence of "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" was filmed in Chicago in 2010.

An unprecedented six network television series will also be filmed entirely in Chicago beginning this summer and fall. Those include, "Chicago Fire" NBC (season 2), "Chicago PD" NBC (spin-off of Chicago Fire), "Crisis" (new for NBC), "Betrayal" (new for ABC), "Mind Games" (new for ABC) and "Sirens" (new for USA).

This new level of production activity puts us on pace for a second consecutive record year in film and television production, possibly exceeding the 2012 total of \$184 million in local expenditures.

These expenditures include the hiring of local technicians and actors, goods and services provided by local businesses, equipment rentals, hotel rooms, office and soundstage space, fees and tax revenues – economic activity that is spread across a broad spectrum of the local business community and creative workforce.

The Chicago Film Office, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, leads the city's effort to attract and enhance the production of feature films, television series, commercials, documentaries and all forms of local screen entertainment. For filmmakers, it is a one-stop liaison for all City of Chicago production needs including permits, city services, and logistical support. For more information, visit chicagofilmoffice.us.

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