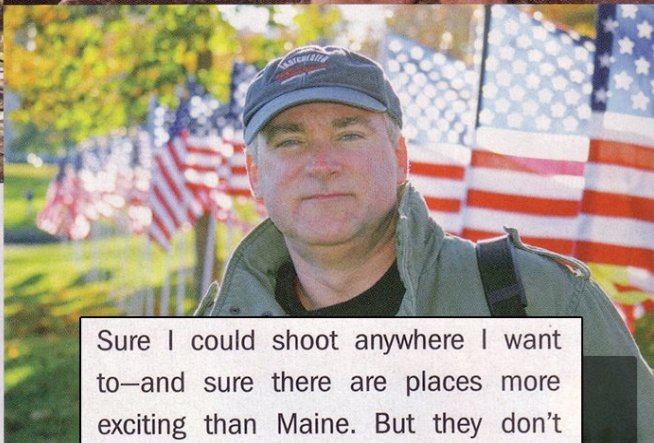
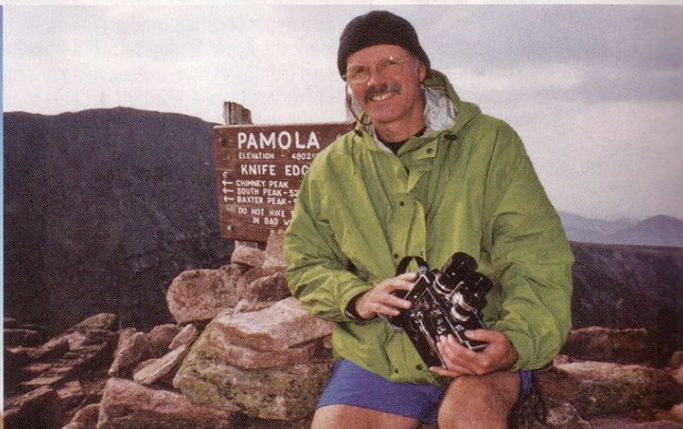


What It Means to be from MAINE



MOST PEOPLE KNOW THAT Maine is populated with moose, lobsters and Stephen King characters. But what many people are only now becoming aware of is what seems to be another statewide infestation: Moviemakers.

With gorgeous scenery, friendly residents and helpful state incentives, the Pine Tree State has been a virtually ignored shooting destination for way too long, but that seems to be changing. On the financial side, the state's Maine Attraction Film Incentive Package now offers local moviemakers both wage reimbursements and income tax credits, with eligible productions normally reimbursed close to 10 percent of paid wages to employees who are non-Maine residents and 12 percent of paid wages for Maine residents.

Also working in this New England state's favor is a tight-knit, dedicated film community comprised of both moviemakers and movie lovers, which is reflected in a robust commercial/industrial industry and a plethora of film festivals. From the Maine and Camden International Film Festivals to the usually sold-out Maine Jewish Film Festival and several year-round arthouse movie theaters, the state provides plenty of opportunities for moviemakers to present their films to cinema-hungry audiences.

MM spoke with a few of Maine's locals to see what they had to say about making movies in their own backyard.

Sure I could shoot anywhere I want to—and sure there are places more exciting than Maine. But they don't have Rose Johnson, the funny postal worker, or Ben Sweeney, the talkative mechanic. You can have the fakes, phonies and freaks. I'll make movies here in Maine, where everybody is your friend—whether they know you or not.

—Kevin DiBacco, DIRECTOR
(Willows Way)

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many faces

and more than enough surprises for the
intrepid location scout. I was not born



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Kevin DiBacco, James Stiles, Franklin McMahon, Christian Matzke and Huey (on top of Mt. Katahdin) choose to make movies in Maine.

here, but I am proud to call Maine both my home and my backlot.

—**Christian Matzke**,
WRITER-DIRECTOR (*Experiment 18: Das Hexenhammer-Projekt*)

In Maine there's an expression: "Independent as a hog on ice." That is what I have found living here for 30 years. The wealth of natural places, unique communities and people who bring a fierce independent spirit to the way they live life are all inspirations to me in making my films.

—**Huey**, MOVIEMAKER (*Wilderness & Spirit: A Mountain Called Katahdin*)

The quality of life is so high in Maine—and the area so beautiful with rich green forests and deep blue skies—that it makes any project challenge seem a lot less earth-shattering.

—**Franklin McMahon**, DIRECTOR
(*Rumor Girls*)

Living and shooting a feature film in Maine gave me the opportunity to keep costs low. The freedom to shoot was outstanding and to add to the local

economy was a real treat. Growing up in Maine it was always my dream to shoot a movie here; with the help of the Maine Film Office and New England Casting, it came true—for under \$100,000!

—**James Stiles**, WRITER-DIRECTOR-
ACTOR (*Web Girl*, *Trailer Trash*)

Moviemaking in Maine is a dream. It comes down to locations and people: The locations are stunning, the people are salt of the earth and extremely creative and prices are quite competitive.

—**Richard Kane**, CINEMATOGRAPHER

What could be more appropriate than making horror films in the land of the "King" of horror? Maine's ancient Indian lands, looming colonials and spooky forests inspire your eeriest imaginings. Add in the state's incentives, which are spurring the film industry, and you have the perfect potion for producing spine-tingling cinema.

—**Laurie Notch**, WRITER-PRODUCER
(*Cube Ghouls*)

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