



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 25, 2009

Contact: Steve Dieterichs  
(903) 654-4851

## **CITY TO CELEBRATE “FILM FRIENDLY” STATUS**

*Palace Theatre Event to feature Film Screening, Tastings and Jazz*

**Corsicana, Texas**— The [City of Corsicana](#) will celebrate its recent designation as a “Film Friendly” community by the [Texas Film Commission](#) at **5 p.m. Friday, October 2** at the [Palace Theatre](#). The event will feature food and wine samplings, donated by local restaurants and benefactors, a screening of [The Making of “Texas: The Big Picture.”](#) and an outdoor jazz performance by Corsicana Swing Lite.

According to Carol Pirie, deputy commissioner of the Texas Film Commission, the Film Friendly Texas designation will help the TFC promote Corsicana as a community ready to do business with potential productions.

“Meeting the program criteria demonstrates that the community has taken the time to learn about production, streamlined the application process and welcomes the industry in a meaningful way,” Pirie said.

Earlier this year, Corsicana Tourism & Promotions Coordinator Steve Dieterichs attended a Film Friendly Texas seminar in Richmond, as the first step in the certification process.

“I knew that film production was big business in Texas, but I had no idea how much economic impact on-location filming can have on a community,” Dieterichs said. “The examples presented were inspiring.”

According to Pirie, state-wide spending on feature film and television productions in 2008 exceeded \$85 million. Locally, a film spends money on a wide range of things, from lumber to groceries to gas to hotel rooms to furniture rentals.

“Filmmakers are willing to pay for the privilege of capturing the essence of a community,” said Bo Svennson, a Texas location scout with over 500 commercial shoots to his credit. “Property owners stand to make big bucks on location fees and business owners can negotiate compensation for any lost revenue.”

To complete the program requirements, the City submitted a photographic package of potential film locations, and City Council adopted a set of Film Guidelines drafted by the TFC. The guidelines safeguard residents and allow productions to utilize a public street for filming purposes for as little as \$50.

“A few independent filmmakers have already discovered Corsicana as a city rich with character,” Dieterichs said. “We continue to welcome these indies and hope to eventually land a major studio production.”

For more information about the celebration event or Corsicana’s Film Friendly program, please visit [www.ci.corsicana.tx.us](http://www.ci.corsicana.tx.us), or call Steve Dieterichs at (903) 654-4851.