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Sharon has been the Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office (GPFO) since 1992. After completion of college, she was a dental hygienist but changed career paths and in 1972 opened a clothing boutique on 17th street in Philadelphia. She also sold her clothing designs to department stores. When the AIDS epidemic hit, she lost many friends including her business partner. She sold her boutique and landed a job as a stylist for tv. Her claim to fame was dressing gorillas and chimps as DJ's. This launched her wardrobe/costume career. Her main client was a toy company. She then was in charge of wardrobe for movies (Mannequin 2). In 1991, she was a member of 3 Unions and proposed to Mayor Ed Rendell the idea of a Greater Philadelphia Film Office. In 1992, the idea became a non profit which raised enough money to stand alone in 2000. Her favorite movie memory is the movie Philadelphia which she convinced production and the Mayor to film at City Hall in Philadelphia. The title changed from:

1. At Risk
2. People Like You
3. Probable Cause
4. a competition was held and Philadelphia was the winner!

film.org

GPFO website which supports the Philadelphia film industry. The website includes a job hotline that is FREE.

The goals of GPFO are to attract moving picture productions to Philadelphia, create a robust film town in Philadelphia, support members of the acting community, help raise funds for documentaries and help businesses account for tax credits and donations related to film making in Philadelphia. They coordinate all aspects of film related tasks in Philadelphia including parking permits. Additionally, they hold a screenwriting competition every year and award a \$10,000 cash prize to best submission (other prizes include best student film, African film maker, film out of the tri state area and pilot for a tv series).

The federal and state funds have been cut off in Philadelphia, so GPFO is asking film companies who film in Philadelphia for a voluntary payroll deduction of \$2 per day of filming in the hopes of raising money. They need help with fundraising so please share their Go Fund Me page #SAVEPHILLYFILM on your social media. They are actively looking for streams of money to keep filming in Philadelphia.

In the old days, filming would happen in real locations in relation to the storyline. Philadelphia was useful because of its historical attributes and because it could pass as New York for filming scenes. In the mid 1990's, the Canadian government took production from the US by offering tax credits. The US is the only country without a Film Commission, so each state has to appeal to it's legislators for tax credits. Pennsylvania has a tax cap which is very small (Philadelphia and Pittsburgh share in the amount) compared to other states including Atlanta which is uncapped.

3 shows coming to Philadelphia

1. HBO The Mayor of Easttown
2. Servant Season 2
3. Netflix - Basketball Movie