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## Virginia named one of “Top Ten Places to Shoot” by P3/Production Update Magazine

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The July issue of P3/Production Update Magazine released its list of the top ten places to shoot in the U.S. and Virginia was eighth on the list. Other states included Texas, Utah, Georgia, North Carolina, Hawaii, New York, Florida, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Among the reasons for Virginia’s top ranking was the state’s stellar hospitality to filmmakers and its proximity to Washington, DC, a major production center in the Mid-Atlantic region. In addition, the state’s ability to portray Washington has resulted in numerous projects for the Commonwealth including *The Contender* and the ABC Television series *Commander in Chief*. The article also mentions *Evan Almighty*, the high profile comedy that just shot in the Commonwealth, as well as *Minority Report* and *War of the Worlds*, both directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise.

This is not the first time Virginia has been singled out as an exceptional place for film production. In 2005, the city of Charlottesville was commended for its lively and growing independent film community by MovieMaker magazine, and in 2004 the same magazine named Richmond one of the top cities in the nation for independent filmmaking.

In 2005, The VCU Center for Public Policy issued a report on the impact of Virginia’s film, video and television industries entitled *An Economic Analysis of Virginia’s Film and Video Production-Distribution Industry*. The study shows that in 2004 the total economic impact of the industry was \$510 million, contributing \$19.8 million in state tax revenues. Approximately 6,000 Virginians were employed in various aspects of the creation of filmed products, including production company employees, actors, crew members, designers, editors, composers, writers and audio engineers. The study estimates that an additional 2,500 Virginians were employed in businesses that support film and video production.

Rita McClenny, Vice-President of Film and Industry Relations for the Virginia Tourism Corporation, commented: “The state has never been in a better position to capture a significant share of the \$34 billion American film industry. The recognition we have been receiving demonstrates Virginia’s nationwide reputation as an exceptional place for film, video and television production.”

The Virginia General Assembly recently passed a small incentive package to assist in recruiting business for Virginia, enhancing the state’s ability to compete with the 27 other states whose legislatures have instituted significant incentive plans.