

Big Shins Films
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Maine State House
ATTN: Committee on Taxation
c/o Legislative Information Office
Clerk, Benjamin Berry

Dear Taxation Committee Members,

My husband, Matt Cascella, and I moved to Maine in September 2020, after 16 years working in documentary, TV, and film in New York. We were so inspired by the city of Portland and our new home state that we immediately started working on a feature-length movie script set here.

Our script and the setting of Maine attracted talented actors – Desmin Borges (FX's *You're the Worst*, HBO's *Time Traveler's Wife*); Kelly O'Sullivan (*Saint Frances*); Barbara Rosenblat (*Orange is the New Black*); Catherine Curtin (*Stranger Things*); Steve Coulter (*SheHulk*, *Yellowstone*); and Maine's own Matthew Delamater (*The Tender Bar*). We supplemented with local talent and extras, hired as many local crew as we could find (14 out of 23 total), and got to work nailing down locations with the help of the Maine Film Office.

We entered into production on *Hangdog* in early 2022 and filmed for 18 days over the course of April. Our film had a budget of \$400,000, half of which was pumped directly into the Portland economy through labor, hotels, car rentals, Airbnbs, catering, restaurants, the Casco Bay ferry, parking, gas stations, shops, and other expenses.

We decided to set our film here, knowing that the tax incentives weren't ideal, because the city of Portland was essentially a central character in our film and nowhere else would suffice. Had our budget been in the millions, as most film productions are, we likely would have had to rewrite the script for an alternate location (Nova Scotia seems to be a frequent stand-in).

It takes a village to make a feature, and we embraced – and were embraced by – our local community of entrepreneurs, makers, artists, and filmmakers. We aimed to feature multiple local businesses on camera and worked with several local artists for all of our art needs. We found the process of filming in Portland to be one of generosity, community, and creativity, and received nothing but support from every single person and business we encountered. We hope to have another opportunity to film here.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please see the following page for a list of locations we showcased and businesses we supported.

Sincerely,
Jen Cordery & Matt Cascella
Big Shins Films

Locations We Showcased:

1. Munjoy Hill
2. Fort Sumner Park
3. Eastern Promenade
4. East End Beach
5. Bangs Island Mussels
6. Downtown Portland
7. Old Port
8. Meowy Jane Dispensary
9. West End (2 private homes)
10. Private Boat on DeMillo's Marina
11. Peaks Island Ferry
12. Brad's Bike Shop (Peaks Island)
13. Battery Steel
14. Illustration Institute
15. Peaks Island rental home

Some of the many local businesses and organizations we spent money at during production:

1. AC Hotel Portland, Maine
2. Airbnb (2)
3. Peaks Island Rental Home
4. Casco Bay Ferry
5. Peaks Cafe
6. Peaks Island Golf Carts
7. DeMillo's Parking
8. City of Portland Parking
9. Material Objects
10. Illustration Institute (donation for use of two buildings for filming)
11. Green Memorial AME Zion Church (donation for use of parking lot)
12. Eventide
13. Street & Co.
14. Via Vecchia
15. Holy Donut
16. Aroma Joe's
17. Coffee By Design
18. Chaval
19. Empire Chinese
20. Sisters Gourmet Deli
21. El Rayo Taqueria
22. Terlingua
23. LB Kitchen
24. B. Good
25. Cera Foods
26. Hannigans Island Market
27. Oxbow Brewing
28. Novare Res Bier Cafe
29. Maine Craft Distilling
30. Gorgeous Gelato
31. Hannaford
32. Gulf Oil
33. Target
34. Bank of America
35. U-Haul