

Sports & Entertainment

Memphis & Shelby County Film Commission celebrates 40th Anniversary under leadership of Commissioner Linn Sitler, bringing in such films as ‘The Firm’ and ‘Hustle & Flow’

By The Memphis & Shelby County Film, Tape, and Music Commission

Film/TV Commission History

In 1985, Memphis Mayor Dick Hackett and the Memphis City Council - together with Shelby County Mayor Bill Morris and the Shelby County Commission - passed a joint resolution creating what was to be called The Memphis & Shelby County Film, Tape, and Music Commission. In 2025, we celebrate the 40 year anniversary of the founding of The Memphis & Shelby County Film/TV Commission. In those four decades, Memphis Shelby County has become a destination for all kinds of film and television production. However, from 1989 through 2004, the Film/TV Commission recruited a seemingly endless number of big budget studio pictures. The total documented local direct spend for 1989 through 2004 was almost 80 million dollars in 2025 dollars. Memphians regularly spotted Hollywood legends around town. World famous directors temporarily calling Memphis home included Francis Ford Coppola, Sydney Pollack, Milos Forman and Joel Schumacher. Spotting stars from Dennis Quaid to Reese Witherspoon to Ice T and Ice Cube to Susan Sarandon to Matt Damon to Angela Bassett to Tom Cruise became a favorite



Linn Sitler receives a friendly buss from an admirer. Also, Sitler spear-headed getting “Hustle & Flow” filmed in Memphis. The film won an Academy Award for Best Song.

pastime for Memphians. NOTE: None of these big budget productions were recruited with the current state production incentives because the incentives did not yet exist!

With no state production incentives until 2006, the Film/TV Commission reeled in its blockbuster clients from 1989 - 2004 with Memphis' own brand of in-

centives - Memphis Shelby County filming locations, Memphis Music, and Memphis Barbecue. A little Film Commission charm, a lot of Mayoral support, capped off by an evening out on Beale Street went a long way in pre-incentive days!

Over each of the last 40 years, the clients of the Film/TV Commission have directly impacted

the local economy with a documented spend of millions and millions of dollars. Whether indie films, big budget tv series, commercials or music videos, clients of the Film/TV Commission continue to love filming in Memphis Shelby County.

Although the name of the agency has changed over the years, The Memphis & Shelby County Film

and Television Commission/Foundation has always been and continues to be the official economic development agency for Film and Television in Memphis Shelby County.

To Be Continued: The Film/TV Commission's 40th Anniversary Newsletter Special Edition Part 2

-- Don't miss it! Read how Craig Brewer's indie feature Hustle & Flow competed with James Mangold's studio blockbuster Walk The Line at the 2006 Academy Awards. Memphis takes center stage!

For more information, email to: Hello@filmmemphis.org



See additional photo on sports page 1. All photos by Bill Carrier III and Andrea Zucker

NFL Network to carry 21 live 2025 preseason games from sports page 4

Sunday, Aug. 10
1 p.m. ET – Miami Dolphins vs. Chicago Bears
4 p.m. ET – New Orleans Saints vs. Los Angeles Chargers

Week 2
Friday, Aug. 15
7 p.m. ET – Tennessee Titans vs. Atlanta Falcons
10 p.m. ET – Kansas City Chiefs vs. Seattle Seahawks
Saturday, Aug. 16
1 p.m. ET – Cleveland Browns vs. Philadelphia Eagles
4 p.m. ET – San Francisco 49ers vs. Las Vegas Raiders
7 p.m. ET – New York Jets vs. New York Giants
9:30 p.m. ET – Arizona Cardinals vs. Denver Broncos

Sunday, Aug. 17
1 p.m. ET – Jacksonville Jaguars vs. New Orleans Saints

Week 3
Thursday, Aug. 21
7 p.m. ET – Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Carolina Panthers
Friday, Aug. 22
8 p.m. ET – Atlanta Falcons vs. Dallas Cowboys
Saturday, Aug. 23
1 p.m. ET – Los Angeles Rams vs. Cleveland Browns
4 p.m. ET – Seattle Seahawks vs. Green Bay Packers
7 p.m. ET – Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Miami Dolphins
10 p.m. ET – Las Vegas Raiders vs. Arizona Cardinals

Head coach Prater names Lindy Milkowski assistant coach for the Memphis softball program from sports page 1

Her first collegiate season was spent at Iowa, where she was coached by current Memphis softball head coach Trena Prater. She becomes the second member of the staff to have played under Prater, as director of operations Cassidy Brewer also played for Prater in 2018 at UCF.

Medal of Honor. Her first season as a Panther in 2022 saw her be named to the All-OVC First Team and Newcomer Team, while also being honored as an NFCA/Easton All-American Scholar Athlete. Milkowski tallied 26 doubles, 23 home runs and 93 RBI while at Eastern Illi-

nois. Her first collegiate season was spent at Iowa, where she was coached by current Memphis softball head coach Trena Prater. She becomes the second member of the staff to have played under Prater, as director of operations Cassidy Brewer also played for Prater in 2018 at UCF.

Milkowski is the daughter of Joy Milkowski, who spent the 2025 season with Memphis as an assistant coach.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Softball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team's social media channels on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

Watch for The Mid-South Tribune’s Juneteenth/Fourth of July Special Edition!



Happy Father’s Day on June 15!