FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On Location Feature Production Falls in First Quarter

Fewer L.A. Projects in Production Despite Increase in Tax Credit Use

LOS ANGELES – April 12, 2017 – On-location filming in Greater Los Angeles decreased 2.1 percent in the first quarter of 2017, according to a FimL.A. report released today. In all, 9,496 Shoot Days (SD)* were logged during the period, including all categories tracked by the nonprofit. Among all filming categories, on-location Feature production suffered the steepest quarterly decline, slipping 36.3 percent to 729 SD. Meanwhile, local production of short-form Web-Based TV projects increased 33.7 percent, to 508 SD.

Feature production has been highly variable over the past year, but during the first part of 2017, the category dropped to levels not seen since 2012. FilmL.A. identified several possible explanations for the change, including a reduction in total number of locally made Feature projects, and the local unavailability of sound stages.

Incentivized projects, brought to Los Angeles by the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program, contributed 22.3 percent, or 163 count, of the Shoot Days in the Feature category in the first quarter. Eight incentivized features were in production Greater L.A. in early 2017, vs. five such projects in 2016. FilmL.A.’s annual Feature production report -- which is due out later this month -- will further analyze California’s place among international competitors for new Feature projects.

“Feature production levels are proving highly cyclical and difficult to evaluate on a quarter-by-quarter basis,” noted FilmL.A. President Paul Audley. “Last year local Feature production hit a seven-year high -- so trendspotting in this segment requires a deeper dive.”
On-location Television production slipped 0.6 percent overall from January through March, with gains in Web-Based TV, TV Comedy (up 9.2 percent to 608 SD), and TV Reality (up 0.9 percent to 1,162 SD), offsetting decreases in TV Pilots (down 15.5 percent to 223 SD) and TV Dramas (down 8.4 percent to 999 SD). Overall Television production is still tracking 10.3 percent ahead of its 5-year average.

Incentivized TV Drama projects contributed 30.4 percent, or 304 count, of the total Shoot Days in that category in the first quarter. Incentivized TV Pilot projects contributed 29 percent, or 64 count, of the total Shoot Days in that category.

On-location Commercials production slipped 2.6 percent in the first quarter of 2017, to 1,484 SD. The category is tracking 4.7 percent above its 5-year average, and was supported in the first quarter by the local production of spots for Super Bowl LI.

About FilmL.A.

FilmL.A. is a private, not-for-profit community benefit organization and the official film office of the City and County of Los Angeles, among an ever-increasing roster of local municipalities. Providing streamlined permit processing, comprehensive community relations, marketing services, film policy analysis and more to these jurisdictions, FilmL.A. works to attract and retain film production in Greater Los Angeles. Learn more about FilmL.A. at www.filmla.com.

* On-location production figures are based on days of permitted production within the jurisdictions served by FilmL.A. One “Shoot Day” (or “SD”) is defined as one crew’s permission to film at one or more defined locations during all or part of any given 24-hour period. This measure determines how many days of work film crews perform during a given time period. FilmL.A. data does not include production that occurs on certified sound stages or on-location in jurisdictions not served by FilmL.A.
LOS ANGELES SHOOT DAYS*, BY CATEGORY
CALENDAR YEARS 2016 - 2017, FIRST QUARTER

FEATURE FILMS
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 36.3%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: - 22.0%

COMMERCIALS
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 2.6%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 4.7%

TELEVISION
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 0.6%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 10.3%

OTHER
VERSUS Q1 2016: + 8.3%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 8.6%

TOTAL
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 2.1%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 5.5%

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LOS ANGELES SHOOT DAYS*, BY TELEVISION SUB-CATEGORY
CALENDAR YEARS 2016 - 2017, FIRST QUARTER

**TV DRAMA**
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 8.4%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 4.1%

**TV COMEDY**
VERSUS Q1 2016: + 9.2%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 37.2%

**TV REALITY**
VERSUS Q1 2016: + 0.9%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 1.9%

**TV PILOT**
VERSUS Q1 2016: - 15.5%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: - 17.1%

**WEB-BASED TV**
VERSUS Q1 2016: + 33.7%
5 YEAR AVERAGE: + 53.9%

**304 INCENTIVIZED SHOOT DAYS**
30.4% OF TV DRAMA CATEGORY

**64 INCENTIVIZED SHOOT DAYS**
29% OF TV PILOT CATEGORY

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