

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit Helps Secure Cleveland Film***"I Alex Cross" to begin Filming in August 2011*

**Columbus** – The Ohio Film Office, along with the Greater Cleveland Film Commission, will welcome another major motion picture to the Cleveland area this summer. *I Alex Cross*, based on James Patterson's best-selling book series, will receive an Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit worth \$5 million and begin filming in August 2011. The production is expected to hire 183 Ohio-based crew and more than 1,700 cast members, including extras.

"Once again, we have been able to successfully demonstrate that Ohio has the right mix of locations, partnerships, incentives, and customer service that makes us an ideal production destination," said Amir Eylon, Director of the Ohio Tourism Division, which houses the Ohio Film Office. "We are thrilled that they have chosen Ohio as the film's location."

The wildly popular book series has generated billions in book sales worldwide and the film will focus on the original story that started it all. Alex Cross, doctor of psychology and expert homicide detective, investigates a series of murders and uncovers evidence that the killer has a much grander plan. After thwarting the killer's next attack, Cross soon finds himself and his family among the killer's next targets.

*I Alex Cross* (starring Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox, Ed Burns, and Jean Reno) will be directed by Rob Cohen; produced by Bill Block, Paul Hanson, Norton Herrick, Teddy Schwarzman, and Leopoldo Gout; and executive produced by James Patterson, Steve Bowen, and Ethan Smith.

"With the enlightened Ohio tax incentive I look forward to making one of the first films that can show all the state has to offer, said director Rob Cohen."

The film, marks the 11<sup>th</sup> project approved for a tax credit from the Northeast Ohio region, including *The Avengers* (starring Robert Downey Jr.) and *Fun Size* (starring Victoria Justice), which are also scheduled to shoot in Cleveland this summer.

"This is shaping up to be, far and away, the busiest summer for movie production in Cleveland history," said Ivan Schwarz, Executive Director of the Greater Cleveland Film Commission. "The entire community – including our public partners, local cast and crew, and film vendors – has rallied around this industry. These films will continue to create jobs and economic benefits for the Cleveland region, while building a strong and sustainable media industry."

"We are very pleased to be filming in Ohio and look forward to a successful project for everyone involved," said producer Paul Hanson. "Both the Ohio Film Office and the Greater Cleveland Film Commission have been fantastic partners."

Since the tax credit began in Fiscal Year 2010, the Ohio Film Office has provided more than \$34 million in tax credits to Ohio productions, which are expected to employ more than 11,300 Ohioans and contribute more than \$129 million to Ohio's economy.

In order to be eligible for the tax credit, production companies must show reviewable progress to

the Ohio Film Office within 90 days of receiving the notification letter. Companies will only receive the tax credit upon the completion of production.

For more information on the tax credit, or how to get involved with the films, visit [www.ohiofilmoffice.com](http://www.ohiofilmoffice.com).

*The **Ohio Film Office** administers the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, which helps advance the motion picture industry in the State of Ohio, creating job opportunities and revenue. The **Ohio Film Office** aggressively recruits outside production activity to Ohio and helps retain and grow existing Ohio production companies and related businesses with the assistance and collaboration of industry partners. The Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit, totaling \$30 million for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, is calculated in two components: Ohio resident cast and crew wages will be credited at 35 percent. All other eligible production expenditures will be credited at 25 percent.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

*The **Greater Cleveland Film Commission** is a private, nonprofit economic and workforce development organization committed to bringing film and other media production to Northeast Ohio to strengthen the workforce, support the media production industry, and attract media production to the region. To learn more about the **Greater Cleveland Film Commission**, visit [www.clevelandfilm.com](http://www.clevelandfilm.com).*

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