

Karen Kuklinski, UpTwist Marketing: INSPIRE MAGAZINE, to be published July 2004,  
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## **Cincinnati, Little Hollywood**

Imagine Melanie Griffith on your couch, Jeff Bridges in your coffee shop and Michael Douglas sitting next to you at your favorite restaurant! It happens, every day, right here in Cincinnati, thanks to The Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Film Commission.

“Oh yes! In fact, can you hold for a second?” asks an energetic, multi-tasking Kristen Erwin, the Commission's Director. “Emilio Estevez is on the other line!”

Later, Erwin explains, “Emilio's Dad, Martin Sheen, is from Dayton and Emilio's new movie was written to take place in this area. And, he wants a location with a harness racing track – which we happen to have in Lebanon, OH.”

Of course, nothing is a done deal until, as the insiders at the Commission say “The tape is clicking through the camera.” Which brings us to ‘The Good, The Challenges and The Inside Scoop’ of Cincinnati being Little Hollywood.

## **The Good**

### **The Film Commission**

Cincinnati has a 4-star, 2-thumbs-up film commission with an incredible success rate. And, right now, the Film Commission operates with only one full-time employee, Director Kristen Erwin, supported by many devoted board members and generous volunteers.

“Kristin is an amazing Ambassador for the city and a PR Machine,” explains Greg Newberry, Board Member and Screenwriter.

The Film Commission is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting film, television and commercial production throughout the area. Since it was founded in 1987, the Commission has brought 23 films to the area, plus thousands of commercials, music videos and documentaries.

Most recently, Erwin was involved with coordinating locations for Seabiscuit and Mr. 3000. And, she smiles proudly, “There are two movies being filmed here this summer. One produced by Tom Cruise, “Elizabethtown,” and another by Bill Johnson, called “Dreamer.”