

# Nashville

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## State's growing role in industry

Over the past decade, actors, actresses, filmmakers and writers have continued to establish home bases in Nashville.

Musical theater legend Kristin Chenoweth, "Modern Family" actress Ariel Winter and 1990s sitcom star Melissa Joan Hart are among the entertainers who now call Tennessee home.

Other additions to the city include "General Hospital" actress Kirsten Storms, "One Tree Hill" star Jana Kramer, "Twilight" actor Kellan Lutz and "Orange Is the New Black" star Laura Prepon.

Recent projects filmed in Tennessee include "9-1-1: Nashville," "Scarpetta" starring Kidman and Jamie Lee Curtis, the Netflix thriller "Heartland," and yet another Kidman project, "Holland, MI."

As of 2026, the Tennessee Entertainment Commission estimates the film industry is generating \$365 million in state tax revenues and \$6.4 billion in entertainment sector gross domestic product.

That's a dramatic increase considering the commission estimated production projects had a cumulative impact of \$445.7 million in economic output from 2007 to 2022. From 2014 to 2022, Tennessee employment in motion picture and video production grew 82%.

The commission reports Tennessee now ranks fifth in the nation for employment in the motion picture and video sector.

For example, the procedural "9-1-1: Nashville" has created more than 600 jobs and generated an estimated \$50 million in economic impact statewide since filming began in June 2025, the commission reported.

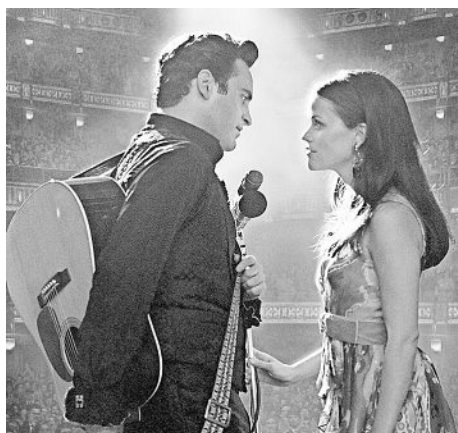
"Nashville is a character, and Nashville itself carries a lot of weight," Commission Executive Director Bob Raines said in an interview with WKRN. "It's a city that audiences recognize, and it brings authenticity to a show like this."

But seeing the Volunteer State on the silver screen isn't a new trend.

Tennessee had its glory days in the film industry with major blockbuster movies filming in the '80s and '90s after the creation of the Tennessee Film, Tape, and Music Commission in 1983,



Kay Scarpetta (Nicole Kidman) in 2026's "Scarpetta." CONNIE CHORNUK/PRIME



Johnny Cash, (Joaquin Phoenix) and June Carter (Reese Witherspoon) perform onstage during a scene of 2005's "Walk the Line." SUZANNE TENNER / TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

now known as the Entertainment Commission, which was part of a government push to attract Hollywood productions.

Movies filmed in Tennessee in 1984 included Mark Rydell's "The River," which starred Sissy Spacek, Mel Gibson and Scott Glenn; the Sylvester Stallone and Dolly Parton romance "Rhinestone"; and Jane Fonda and Levon Helm's "The Dollmaker."

More than a decade later came Tom Hanks' "The Green Mile" (1999), which was filmed at the old Tennessee State



Couple Leah and Philip Abraham, who run the media company Philea Media, moved to Nashville from LA in 2024. PROVIDED BY LEAH AND PHILLIP ABRAHAM

Prison in Nashville.

The penitentiary has had a starring role in multiple productions over the years, including another Spacek film, "Marie." The 2005 hit "Walk the Line," which starred Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, also filmed scenes at the prison.

## More actors moving to Nashville

Leah and Phillip Abraham, who run the media company Philea Media, moved to Nashville from Los Angeles in 2024 after COVID-19 caused much of the film industry to go remote. That was the final push they needed to relocate.

"People are making choices based off of where they want to live," Phillip Abraham said.

"And that means that Nashville, and amazing cities that are centrally located for the Southeast, are just the perfect spot for filmmakers," he said, pointing out Nashville's proximity to Georgia and Ohio, two other major filming locations.

The Abrahams produce cinematic social media shorts, have written on major motion pictures and create music together.

"Nashville specifically feels really exciting because you're at the ground-up, whereas in L.A., the culture is long-standing," Leah Abraham said. "Nashville is this new energy. All of our friends are collaborating, shooting sizzles and writing pilots. There's more inclusion and creativity."

The couple recently filmed a pilot on the property of a man who provided the venue free of charge, which the couple described as an example of Southern hospitality. The property owner even cooked the entire film crew tri-tip steak fresh off the grill for lunch and never billed them.

"Here the soil is fertile," Phillip Abraham said. "We're having a lot of fun seeing that roots can grow down."

"Nashville has a lot of room to grow. I've experienced as an actor here that people don't know the film industry in the same way, so you have to really fight for certain protections," Leah Abraham said, recalling how she has been asked to work unreasonable hours or carry out responsibilities not included in her contract.

"I'm excited to be an advocate for good rights, protecting people and cultivating something that, in my opinion, can be different than L.A. in a really positive way," she said.

And there's much to come on the horizon.

"9-1-1: Nashville" has been renewed for a second season and is expected to air in fall of 2026.

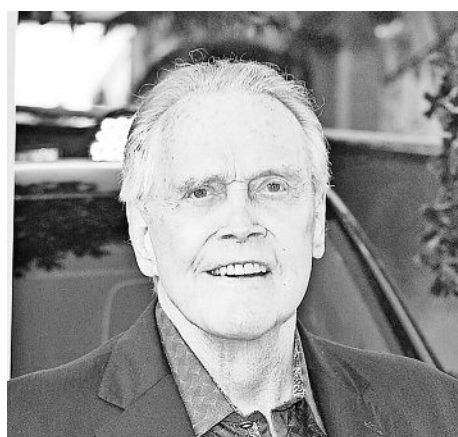
In March, Netflix and Warner Music Group struck a multiyear deal to produce documentary series and films about the lives, music and legacies of the label's artist roster.

Separate from the new deal, Netflix is releasing the documentary "Lainey Wilson: Keepin' Country Cool," which was filmed in Louisiana and Nashville.

Film lovers can expect to see much more of Tennessee on their screens of all sizes in years to come.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Actor **Lee Majors** turns 87. Actor **Blair Brown**, 80. Actor **Joyce DeWitt**, 77. Director **Michael Moore**, 72. Actor **Judy Davis**, 71. Actor-TV host **Valerie Bertinelli**, 66. Actor **Craig Sheffer**, 66. Co-median-actor **George Lopez**, 65. Actor **John Hannah**, 64. Actor **Scott Bairstow**, 56. Actor-writer **John Lutz**, 53. Wrestler-actor **John Cena**, 49. Political commentator-comedian **John Oliver**, 49. Actor **Kal Penn**, 49. Actor **Jaime King**, 47. Singer **Taio Cruz**, 46. Actor **Jesse Lee Soffer**, 42. Actor **Dev Patel**, 36. Model **Gigi Hadid**, 31.  
— USA TODAY Network



Majors

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, April 23, the 113th day of 2026. There are 252 days left in the year. On this date in:

**1616:** Renowned playwright William Shakespeare died at Stratford-upon-Avon, England at age 52. Shakespeare left a legacy of influential works that included 39 plays, 154 sonnets and several narrative poems and verses.

**1635:** The first public school opened in the United States: Boston Latin School in Boston, Massachusetts. It was open to both rich and poor people. The school was led by Philemon Pormont and intended to be a college preparatory center. Among its most famous alumni were John Hancock, William Hooper and Samuel Adams. Benjamin Franklin attended as well but dropped out.

**1858:** German theoretical physicist Max Karl Ernst Ludwig Planck was born in Kiel, Germany. The recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1918 for discovering the energy unit of quanta, he is also known for Planck's constant.

**1861:** Gen. Robert Lee was appointed the commander of Virginia's Confederate forces during the Civil War. Lee resigned from the U.S. Army three days prior.

**1928:** Actress, singer, dancer and diplomat Shirley Temple was born in Santa Monica, California. Mostly known as a Hollywood icon during her youth, Temple began a career in diplomacy when she was selected to be the U.S. delegate at the 24th U.N. General Assembly by President Richard Nixon. She was later appointed to be the U.S. Ambassador to Ghana in 1974 by President Ger-

ald R. Ford.

**1954:** Hank Aaron hit the first of his 755 career home runs during a game against the Cardinals at Sportsman Park. He would endure many racist taunts and threats over the next two decades leading up to Aaron hitting No. 715, breaking what at the time was Babe Ruth's record for homers.

**1969:** Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for the June 5, 1968, assassination of U.S. Sen. Robert Kennedy Sr., the younger brother of President John Kennedy. His sentence was later commuted to life in prison.

**1975:** President Gerald Ford said the U.S. war efforts in the Vietnam War were coming to an end. The news devastated the South Vietnamese, who were desperate for U.S. support as the North Vietnamese closed in on Saigon.

**1984:** U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler announced that researchers had identified what later was named human immunodeficiency virus, aka HIV, which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS.

**1985:** Coca-Cola released a new formula called New Coke. The response was tremendously negative, and the original formula returned to the market three months later.

**1998:** James Earl Ray, who assassinated Martin Luther King Jr., died from complications caused by hepatitis C at age 70 in prison.

**2005:** YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim uploaded its first YouTube video, "Me at the zoo."

— Hoang Tran, USA TODAY Network

## CATCH A CLASSIC

### Deep in the Heart of Texas

#### TCM, beginning at 8 p.m.

Tonight's Texas spotlight begins with two of the most moving films ever made about ordinary people trying to hold onto dignity in difficult times. First is **Places in the Heart** (1984), with Sally Field giving a deeply felt performance as a widow fighting to keep her farm during the Depression. Then comes **Tender Mercies** (1983), the powerful drama that earned Robert Duvall an Oscar for his portrayal of a washed-up country singer searching for redemption. After those two films, the night continues with **A Well Spent Life** (1971), **Written on the Wind** (1956), **Blossoms in the Dust** (1941) and **Boom Town** (1940).



"Written on the Wind" PROVIDED BY UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND PHOTOFEST

## MOVIES | CONTENT BY TV WEEKLY

### Blade II

(2002, Horror) Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson **SYFY, 6:30 p.m.**

### Alien: Romulus

(2024, Science fiction) Cailee Spaeny, David Jonsson **HBO, 6:55 p.m.**

### Held Up

(2000, Comedy) Jamie Foxx, Nia Long **BET, 7 p.m.**

### Minions

(2015, Children) **NICK, 7 p.m.**

### Thor: Ragnarok

(2017, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston **FX, 7 p.m.**

### Me, Myself & Irene

(2000, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Renée Zellweger **FXM, 7:10 p.m.**

### Raiders of the Lost Ark

(1981, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Karen Allen **USA, 7:30 p.m.**

### Rambo: First Blood Part II

(1985, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna **BBCA, 7:30 p.m.**

### Ratatouille

(2007, Children) **FREEFORM, 7:30 p.m.**

### Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

(2007, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **EI, 8:30 p.m.**

### The Hangover Part III

(2013, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms **PARMT, 8:30 p.m.**

### Let's Be Cops

(2014, Comedy) Jake Johnson, Damon Wayans Jr. **FXM, 9:30 p.m.**

### Rambo III

(1988, Action) Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna **BBCA, 9:30 p.m.**

### Life

(1999, Comedy-drama) Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence **BET, 10 p.m.**

### Thor: Love and Thunder

(2022, Action) Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman **FX, 10 p.m.**

### Super Troopers

(2001, Comedy) Jay Chandrasekhar, Kevin Heffernan **FXM, 11:25 p.m.**

### Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

(2009, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint **EI, 11:30 p.m.**

Network broadcasting shows are listed in Eastern/Pacific Time, unless noted otherwise. Shows air one hour earlier in Central/Mountain Time. Cable broadcasting shows are listed in Eastern Time.