

**The New Mexico Film Office Announces
JOHNNY to film in New Mexico**

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SANTA FE —New Mexico Film Office Director Nick Maniatis announced today that the feature film *JOHNNY*, based on the true story of five-time boxing world champion and Albuquerque resident, Johnny Tapia, will be filmed in Albuquerque. Principal photography will begin late July through August.

The production will employ at least fifty (50) New Mexico crew members, approximately one-hundred and fifty (150) New Mexico background talent and thirty (30) New Mexico actors.

“We enthusiastically welcome the production *JOHNNY* to Albuquerque this summer. We also welcome back an Albuquerque local, Director Eddie Alcazar,” said Mayor Richard J. Berry. “As someone who personally knew and cared about Johnny Tapia, I look forward to seeing this iconic figure remembered through this film. The setting of Albuquerque brings authenticity to the film, and we’re honored that this successful director chose to return and film his move here in our city.”

JOHNNY is directed and produced by Eddie Alcazar (*TAPIA*), along with producers Olga Segura (*THE TRUTH ABOUT EMANUEL*), Andrea Monier (*TAPIA*), Guillermo Lozano, associate producers Grant Willsea, Javier Lovato and local line producer Brent Morris (*BLAZE YOU OUT*).

Starring Shiloh Fernandez (*EVIL DEAD, WHITE BIRD IN A BLIZZARD*), *JOHNNY* is the story of a twenty-three (23) year old bantamweight boxer on a trailblazing rise. Undefeated and a serious contender to be the world champion, his career is cut short when he tests positive for cocaine. Haunted by the death of his mother, Johnny turned to drugs and is plagued by his addiction as things spiral out of control.

The producers will be reaching out to the community for support and participation in large crowd scenes in Albuquerque, where Johnny is remembered as a hometown hero.

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