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## **Sci-fi Thriller finds its otherworldly home in New Mexico with support from Vault Studios**

**Santa Fe, NM**—The feature film "holySMOKE," featuring New Mexico's breathtaking locations and talented crew base, wrapped filming in Albuquerque in July.

Produced by **Greg Carter, Jaron Marquis, and Ronique Shaw**, with executive producers **Don Benjamin** and **Krish Sidhu**, the film brings a bold, genre-defying vision to the Land of Enchantment. The film stars **Don Benjamin, Adam Waheed, Yancey Arias, Alexis Knapp, Will Yun Lee, and Terrence J.**, among others. Blending grounded storytelling with cinematic spectacle, the film offers a fresh voice in the world of sci-fi thrillers.

"As an indie creator, I've always been drawn to stories that challenge convention and tap into something deeper," said creator **Don Benjamin**. "With 'holySMOKE,' we're fusing genre, culture, and raw emotion to create something that's not only thrilling, but thought-provoking. It's a gritty, immersive ride that explores faith, redemption, and what it means to fight for something bigger than yourself."

The production team cited their partnership with **Vault Studios** in Albuquerque for visual effects as one of the major draws to film in the region. "Being able to work with Vault Studios here has been a game-changer," said the producers. "Their creativity and technical expertise aligned perfectly with our vision — and it's just one more reason Albuquerque was the right home for this film."

"'holySMOKE' is the kind of innovative project we're proud to host in Albuquerque," said New Mexico Film Office Director **Steve Graham**. "This genre-bending film underscores the versatility of our locations and provides valuable work for our skilled New Mexico film professionals and local vendors."

The production employed over fifty New Mexico residents, contributing to the state's thriving film economy.

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*The New Mexico Film Office (NMFO), a division of the Economic Development Department, works to ensure the longevity and progress of New Mexico's film incentive, grow the film, television, and digital media industry, and expand entertainment economic opportunities for New Mexico businesses and residents.*

- Named one of [Deadline's Hot Spots](#).
- Three New Mexico cities were selected as ["2025 Best Place to Live and Work as a Moviemaker"](#) by MovieMaker Magazine for the third consecutive year.

To learn more, visit [nmfilm.com](http://nmfilm.com).

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*The Economic Development Department's Mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.*



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