



Filming on the edge:

How film commissions can encourage production in “risky” places

Film Commissions are an essential part of production and play an important role in bringing many benefits to the location. But risk exposed locations often find it difficult to compete with “safer” locations and change misperceptions about their country/city.

Global Film Solutions Operations Director Bob Parr says that productions are increasingly seeking to move out towards the margins, where the risks may be high, but the potential is great. Professional Risk Management opens up opportunities for producers to film at the edge.

“The key for screen production is to establish a way to manage risk rather than reject possibilities, and to have some kind of defensible position when operating in the margins.”

Parr says Risk Management can also assist film commissions to attract screen production.

“By adhering to any relevant legislation and the international Standard of Risk Management AUS/NZ 4360, film commissions can identify, analyze, evaluate and manage risk and on-location hazards, plan for hazards that can’t be predicted, and educate producers.

“Risks may be as benign as cultural difference that could delay field production, or as extreme as ice climbing or tribal bandits holding roadblocks in remote areas.”

Global Film Solutions recognizes the need for production companies to manage risks from the outset and provides specialized services for the screen industry. The Risk Management process is increasingly an essential, besides cost-saving component of a successful production, according to Managing Director Julian Grimmond.

“A specialized, holistic process looks at the production from the outset, including any geo-political issues, right down to the need for an emergency medical plan. GFS recognizes the importance of flexibility in screen production and understands its nuances.”

Fundamentally, Risk Management keeps people alive in risky places or during risky activities, but it also brings important spin-offs, including cost benefits and avoiding damage to the reputation of the location, production and corporate entities that fund it.

“GFS also aims to encourage better global citizenship, by helping film commissions to educate producers about different locations, their society, culture and environment,” Grimmond says.

Global Film Solutions offers film commissions around the world a formal process of Risk Management that adheres to the international standard and simple steps to interpret the process for the screen industry.

It provides insight into the dynamic nature of screen production, an understanding of budgets and an immersive connectivity within both the screen and security industries. GFS is able to deploy on-location experts including high-level security consultants, medical support, mountain guides, climbing instructors rappel specialists and expedition leaders, maritime or desert safety experts. GFS personnel includes Special Operations jungle warfare instructors, survival specialists and wilderness medicine experts.

Global Film Solutions

Global Film Solutions provides Risk Management in locations anywhere from Africa to Antarctica or war-plagued Afghanistan. It contextualizes Risk Management for the screen industry and is a preferred vendor for Discovery Communications. Its Primetime Emmy® Award-winning Directors combine production insight with a logistical nous and safety and security expertise.

Operations Director Bob Parr is a former member of the British Special Forces. A former Space Intelligence analyst, Parr has also worked closely with the US National Hostage Rescue Team (Delta Force), and deployed as a counter-intelligence field operator with MI5. As a private security contractor, he provided regional security advice on Iraq to a US Presidential campaign.

Managing Director Julian Grimmond is a Television Producer of the Year nominee by the Producers Guild of America, a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and a board member of Film New Zealand. He has worked with the BBC and as an executive producer for several Discovery Channel shows. He co-owns and operates a production company, *Mountain Film Unit*, a post-production house, the free-to-air Channel 5 and *QT Magazine*.

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