

Record sums spent on making films in Scotland

Film and TV producers spent a record £45.2 million shooting on location in Scotland in 2014, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop revealed today.

The record high total – an increase of almost £12 million compared with 2013 – demonstrates a fast growing appetite from major film and high-end TV makers to use Scotland as a backdrop for their productions.

It follows Creative Scotland's work to support large productions to film in Scotland in recent years, including the much anticipated *Sunset Song* and *Macbeth*, *The Legend of Barney Thomson*, *Iona*, *Sunshine on Leith*, *Under the Skin* and *Outlander*, and current productions including *Tommy's Honour* and *Moon Dogs*.



Fiona Hyslop MSP on the red carpet at the *Brave* premiere

Ms Hyslop announced the record production spend total today ahead of a set visit to Bannan, the first Gaelic drama series to be commissioned for BBC ALBA and currently filming in Skye.

Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said:

“This rise in production spend is a strong indication that film producers have a growing appetite to base their productions in Scotland. With our stunning, iconic landscapes, rich culture and heritage and skilled and talented crew, the £45 million production spend total for 2014 demonstrates that producers around the world recognise that Scotland has much to offer.

“These productions generate significant income for Scotland through the use of Scottish talent, crews, locations, transport, accommodation and through the impact they have on tourism.

“The Scottish Government and our agencies are firmly committed to growing the economic impact of our screen sector and continuing to promote Scotland as a premier and competitive location to produce great films and TV shows – as underlined by the £162 million public funding awarded to the sector since 2007/08, during a period of tough budgets.

“But we recognise we need to do more. That is why this week I announced a new £1.75 million production growth fund to provide an additional incentive for major international productions to come to Scotland, as well as increasing funding available for Scottish productions. This builds on the £2 million Tax Credit Advance Facility I announced earlier this year and the £1 million Screen Skills Fund through which we are supporting training and skills development opportunities.”

She added:

“Bannan is a major Scottish success story – reaching a bigger audience than any other programme on BBC ALBA since it launched in 2011 and allocating around a fifth of its production costs to training and professional development opportunities for young people.

“Our continuing support for Bannan underlines the Scottish Government’s firm commitment to increasing indigenous language programming, which we have made clear to the UK Government we expect to see more of through the BBC Charter renewal process.”

Natalie Usher, Director, Screen, Creative Scotland, said:

“The figures announced today demonstrate that Scotland’s screen sector already has the talent, crews, facilities and

award winning locations to attract major productions, including the much anticipated *Sunset Song* and *Macbeth*; [The Legend of Barney Thomson](#), *Iona*, *Sunshine on Leith*, *Under the Skin* and *Outlander*, and current productions, *Tommy's Honour* and *Moon Dogs*.

“Alongside our partners in government, we are firmly committed to supporting screen sector growth and promoting Scotland as a film-friendly nation with unique landscapes and competitive incentives.

This is why the announcement this week of the £1.75m Production Growth Fund which, in addition to the existing UK Tax Credits, provides a further incentive to base a feature film and High End TV productions in Scotland, is a significant and welcome one.”

Chris Young, Producer of *Bannan* and Managing Director of Young Films said:

“We are now filming the last few episodes of the 18-episode *Bannan* cycle, and it's amazing to think that we only started filming the pilot two years ago. That's nine hours of TV drama produced in Scotland in two years, which is something I'm very proud of. The support we have received from both Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government has made a huge difference in making this happen.

“In the process of filming *Bannan*, we have managed to train a whole new home-grown team of new writers, directors, producers, actors and technicians in long-running TV drama.

“I believe *Bannan* provides a very good model for how we can significantly expand indigenous film and television production and training in Scotland.”