

I became a member of the Screen Actors Guild in 1995 after working as a principal extra in a series of beer commercials filmed in Portland. Over the years I have shared set time with James Garner, James Woods, Loise Fletcher, Jody Foster, Mel Gibson, Seymour Cassel and many others, all on productions filmed in Oregon. But that list of names is indicative of an era when filming in Oregon was thriving and poised to grow even bigger. I was once told that our state had everything, great locations able to simulate city and rural settings and a highly trained and motivated resource of actors and film technicians. Unfortunately, other locations, such as Vancouver BC, saw the great benefit of bringing Hollywood to their communities and opted to make filming there more attractive than Oregon. The motion picture industry is environmentally ultra conscious, and the strength of my union ensures they treat actors with dignity and fairness. The impact of film productions on our state will be nothing but positive and worth every penny of investment the State can afford.

I have found memories of working as an extra when I was between jobs at the start of my career. It was exciting and boring at the same time. I got a lot of books read, the food was good and on camera time amazing. I must also say that the money helped in a time of need. Today, I am an engineer for a large consumer packaged goods company. I don't need the work as an extra anymore. But I hope it remains here for others as part of the great return on investment this spending of tax dollars promises. It is a benefit I feel our state must nurture and grow for years to come.

Thank you.

My name is Tom Rabe and I am an actor.