

My name is Bruce Lawson, I'm currently working as the Key Grip on the NBC series "GRIMM". I'm a native Oregonian and I've been making a living as a filmmaker, in Oregon, for 31 yrs. I grew up in Portland, graduated from U of O and I chose to raise my family and make my living in Oregon rather than migrate to another state. I've always known in my heart that there is something special about Oregon. It's the just the way I was raised.

In 1995 my brother Brent and I formed a partnership, BLT Productions, L.L.C.. We invested in a grip equipment package to provide support for projects ranging from commercials to major motion pictures. After 10 years, due to increased growth, we were able to purchase a 35' semi trailer to house our equipment.

In 2009 the feature film "Youth In Revolt", was scheduled to film in Oregon but it was lured away by Michigan's more aggressive incentive program. As other feature projects followed suit, we found ourselves faced with the possibility of having to sell our 35' trailer due to lack of business at home. This was not part of our business plan!

In 2010 "Extraordinary Measures" starring Harrison Ford and Brendan Frasier came to Oregon and so we took a gamble and purchased a 48' trailer to upsize and expand our inventory. It was our vote of confidence that things were going to turn around for Oregon. In October of 2010 we showed our commitment once again and formed, Elite Camera Cars LLC. This time Mark Haleston, my brothers Brian and Brent and myself would join together in an effort to provide a much needed service in the form of an Oregon based professional Camera Car Company.

In 2011 along came an NBC Pilot for a show called "GRIMM". This was going to showcase Portland, our hometown. The Pilot was followed closely by a Lakeshore Productions project titled "GONE", also playing Portland for Portland. 2011 was off to a great start. "Leverage" was in town and a quirky series called "Portlandia" was finding success as well. Twentynine years in the business and I had never seen this much work in Oregon.

What could be better? How about a full season of "GRIMM"? 42 weeks of steady work! This one year of Oregon based production was a much needed boost for our businesses. We've recently completed Season 2 of "GRIMM" and have been able to reinvest our earnings and increase our inventory to the point that we now supply all the grip equipment for the series rather than bringing in equipment from out of state. Between 2009 and the present we have increased our earnings three times over. This money is reinvested in our local economy over and over again.

Our Investments and commitment to growth have been possible due to the increase of projects being filmed in Oregon. These projects come here due to the quality crews, abundant locations and the incentive the state provides.

I urge you to please continue the support of Oregon based productions. Make the investment like we have.

Oregon Film Production is a clean industry that not only provides jobs for Oregon families but also promotes tourism to a world wide audience.

I encourage you to do all you can and insure the continued success of our great film industry in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Bruce Lawson
Key Grip, GRIMM
BLT Productions, L.L.C. and Elite Camera Cars L.L.C.

