



Photo still of Antonio Sabato, Jr. during filming.

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Photo by Nick Arnold

One Nation Under God

It is a familiar phrase: “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” For some, the Pledge of Allegiance seems a distant memory, something that was once reiterated day after day in school or at work. For others, it is a battle cry and a means of standing up for patriotism and one’s faith in God, and yet there are those who feel the term “under God” violates their religious freedoms. Still, for many adults and schoolchildren alike, the Pledge of Allegiance is often a daily reminder of the pride they hold for their country, as well as their faith in God.

“One Nation Under God,” a movie production that recently wrapped in Baton Rouge, seeks to illustrate the importance of the Pledge and its meaning for American citizens of all ages. The film highlights a group of high school students who find themselves in the often-uncomfortable position of answering the question: “In whom or what do we trust?” and the controversy surrounding the answer.

Film production in Baton Rouge, such as with “One Nation,” has created a solid job market for Louisiana locals for the past several years. In 2015, the Capital City was voted *MovieMaker Magazine’s* Best Place To Live and Work as a Moviemaker in the Top Five Small Cities category. Productions such as “One Nation” have the underlying goal to hire local crew and utilize local businesses such as hotels and restaurants. This not only allows Baton Rouge cast and crewmembers the privilege of both living and working in the state, but it helps boost the local economy. “One Nation” Producer Jarred Coates, a Louisiana native and Baton Rouge resident, said, “Bringing more productions to Baton Rouge is a priority for us. It supports our local cast and crew, while inviting other filmmakers and actors to work in a very welcoming and friendly community.”

Coates’ company, Film Incito, has brought several films back to Baton Rouge, including “Caged No More” and “Camp Cool Kids.” Teaming up with director Lisa Arnold, co-producer Dawn Johnson and casting director Debby Gaudet with her company Young Screen Actors, Coates produces films that aim to impact the nation and beyond by promoting anti-bullying messages, helping others to realize their identities in God and, overall, creating a means to help others.

“One Nation” worked out of Celtic Studios in Baton Rouge, using the massive production facility for both the Production Office as well as a shooting location. Celtic Studios has been the home of major productions such as “Twilight,” “Fantastic 4” and the television series “Underground.”

Based on a group of high school students, “One Nation” shot the majority of its content at Baton Rouge’s newly rebuilt Lee Magnet High School. “The school is absolutely beautiful and its administrators were wonderful to work with,” said Coates of Lee High. “They created a pleasant environment for our production, and that is reflected in the quality of the film.”

Starring Isaak Presley, Kevin Sorbo, Antonio Sabato Jr. and Casper Van Dien, “One Nation Under God” is currently in post-production and is expected to be released in 2018. CitySocial