

Nominee: Kalispell, Montana

Award: Outstanding Film Community

Statement of Nomination:

Many production companies and filmmakers have their eye on the spectacular landscapes and backdrops afforded by Glacier National Park and the northern Rockies, which means a great deal of production industry traffic rolls through Kalispell, Montana each year. But in 2015 one feature film project set up camp in the Flathead Valley and found the perfect locations for their character's spiritual quest.

Starring "Mr. Robot" star Rami Malek and directed by up-and-coming indie director Sarah Adina Smith (The Midnight Swim), the production team was based in Kalispell, staying at the Guesthouse Inn & Suites, formerly the Outlaw Inn, which has seen many film crews over the years including What Dreams May Come, Heaven's Gate and The Shining. Montana landscapes and early winter snow provided stunning settings for the film, and the influence of Montana character and hospitality was evident as the project merged with the local color.

From IndieWIRE:

"According to [producer Jonako] Donley, the people of Montana were incredibly welcoming to the production and even became part of the film itself. "You get all kinds of extreme people who end up in Montana," explained Donley, "everyone from back-to-the-land hippies to extremist militiamen to people who want to find solitude and contemplate nature and existence. It's just an unusual collection of really smart and interesting people and just like the landscape became part of the movie, so did the people."

Website or relevant link:

<http://flatheadbeacon.com/2015/11/06/independent-film-shoots-in-kalispell/>

Website or relevant link:

<http://www.indiewire.com/article/where-i-shot-it-finding-the-right-backdrop-for-a-character-s-spiritual-quest-in-busters-mal-heart-20151223>

Website or relevant link:

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/mr-robot-star-rami-malek-836007>

