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## **New Mexico Film Office Announces Lionsgate's "Soldado" to Start Production in New Mexico**

*Benicio del Toro and Josh Brolin reteam for SICARIO sequel; Catherine Keener joins the cast*

**SANTA FE, NM** - The feature film "Soldado," the sequel to the Academy Award®-nominated "Sicario," will start production in New Mexico. The action-drama is being produced by Black Label Media and Thunder Road Pictures, and will be distributed by Lionsgate.

"Soldado" finds Academy Award® winner Benicio Del Toro ("Sicario," "Traffic") reprising his role as the inscrutable attorney-turned-assassin Alejandro, paired onscreen with Academy Award® nominee Josh Brolin ("Sicario," "No Country for Old Men") who returns as the pragmatic CIA operative Matt Graver. Joining the cast is Academy Award® nominee Catherine Keener ("Capote"), who will portray Graver's boss. Stefano Sollima ("Gomorrah," "Suburra") will direct from an original script by Taylor Sheridan ("Sicario," "Hell or High Water").

"Soldado" will be produced by Basil Iwanyk ("Sicario," "The Town") for Thunder Road Pictures; Edward McDonnell ("Sicario," "Prisoners"); and Molly Smith ("Sicario," "Granite Mountain"), Trent Luckinbill ("Sicario," "Granite Mountain"), and Thad Luckinbill ("Sicario," "Granite Mountain") for Black Label Media. Executive producers are Erica Lee ("Sicario," "John Wick"), Richard Middleton ("Gold," "The Artist"), and Ellen H. Schwartz ("Pretty Woman," "Miss Congeniality").

Other key members of the accomplished production team are cinematographer Dariusz Wolski ("The Martian," "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides"), production designer Kevin Kavanaugh ("The Dark Knight," "The Dark Knight Rises"), Academy Award® winning costume designer Deborah Lynn Scott ("Titanic," "Avatar"), and casting directors Mary Vernieu ("Black Swan," "Sin City") and Marisol Roncali ("Fury," "Suicide Squad").

A follow-up to the 2015 film "Sicario," the even more volatile "Soldado" follows the character of Alejandro (Benicio Del Toro) as he makes a deadly alliance with Matt (Josh Brolin) to take on the new crown jewel of Mexico's cartels: human trafficking.

"Soldado" will film predominantly in New Mexico, shooting from November 2016 through January 2017 on location in and around Albuquerque, To'hajiilee, Laguna Pueblo, Bernalillo, and Algodones. It will complete production in Mexico.

"After their highly successful project 'Sicario,' we welcome back Black Label Media and Thunder Road with the follow up film 'Soldado'. It's a great testament to New Mexicans and our thriving film industry when companies who work here are eager to return. And we are certainly eager to have them back," said New Mexico State Film Office Director Nick Maniatis.

"We are thrilled to welcome back the crew from award winning 'Sicario' to film the sequel 'Soldado.' The film industry provides high-paying, creative jobs to our citizens and many businesses are affected positively by the filming here in Albuquerque," said Mayor Richard J. Berry.

The film will employ approximately 200 New Mexico crew members, 70 New Mexico actors and stunt performers, and 1,500 New Mexico background talent. Background talent will include military and Hispanic men, women, and children of all ages. Individuals wishing to be cast as background talent should upload a photo and contact information at [www.egcasting.com](http://www.egcasting.com) or email a photo with height, weight, and phone number to [castingabq@gmail.com](mailto:castingabq@gmail.com).

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