

# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ATLANTA!

BY KARINA TIMMEL

**T**HE SOUTH'S MOST DYNAMIC CITY SHARES ITS SCENE-ERY WITH HOLLYWOOD—SINCE THE ENTERTAINMENT TAX CREDIT WAS UPPED TO 30% IN 2008, MORE AND MORE BIG-BUDGET TV SHOWS AND MOVIE PRODUCTIONS HAVE BEEN HEADING TO A-TOWN TO SHOOT THROUGHOUT THE CITY'S DIVERSE LANDSCAPES. LEE CUTHBERT, LOCATION SPECIALIST FOR THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'S FILM, MUSIC AND DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT OFFICE AND A 20-PLUS YEAR RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING, SHARING AND SHOWING SITES FOR FILM, TV AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION. HERE'S HER SCOUTING REPORT.



**What:** *The Walking Dead*  
**Where:** Cobb Energy Centre (1)

**Who:** Andrew Lincoln, Jon Bernthal and Sarah Wayne Callies  
 Typically filmed just south of Atlanta in small-town Senoia, the AMC zombie apocalypse TV series chose Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre in Smyrna as its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Ironically, the real CDC is also in Atlanta.

**What:** *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*  
**Where:** Elliot Street Deli & Pub (2)

**Who:** Kate Hudson, Liev Schreiber and Kiefer Sutherland  
 Set to release in April, this thriller focuses on a young Pakistani man pursuing the American dream only to become ensnared in a hostage crisis. A vital flashback scene was shot at this tiny, best-kept-secret pub in Castleberry Hill.

**What:** *The Internship*  
**Where:** Clough Commons (3)

**Who:** Vince Vaughn, Owen Wilson and Will Ferrell  
 In this movie, hitting theaters in June, comedic dynamic duo (Wilson and Vaughn) interns at Google.

Georgia Tech's library atrium in West Midtown was transformed into the tech company's shiny headquarters, complete with a replica of SpaceShipOne (which made the first privately funded spaceflight).

**What:** *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*  
**Where:** Swan House at Atlanta History Center (4)

**Who:** Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth  
 The second installment of this cult trilogy is rumored to have filmed a "Capitol" party scene at this majestic Buckhead estate and mansion. The movie is set to release in November.

**What:** *Life as We Know It*  
**Where:** Belly General Store (5)

**Who:** Josh Duhamel, Katherine Heigl  
 This rom-com's production team transformed hipster spot Belly in Virginia Highland into Fraiche, a gourmet food store and café owned by Heigl's character.

**What:** *What to Expect When You're Expecting*  
**Where:** Rag-O-Rama (6)

**Who:** Cameron Diaz, Jennifer Lopez, Chace

Crawford and Matthew Morrison  
 The production for this comedy bounced all over the city. Locations included Piedmont Park in Midtown, events venue Ventanas in downtown's Luckie Marietta District and in front of Rag-O-Rama consignment store in Little Five Points.

**What:** *Trouble with the Curve*  
**Where:** Turner Field (7)

**Who:** Amy Adams, Clint Eastwood, Justin Timberlake and John Goodman  
 This sports-drama's storyline is based around a retirement-age Atlanta Braves baseball scout (Eastwood). So naturally, the movie's major-league lenses were turned to Turner Field in downtown Atlanta for several scenes.

**What:** *The Change-Up*  
**Where:** Ecco (8)

**Who:** Jason Bateman, Ryan Reynolds and Olivia Wilde  
 The comedy captured a date scene with Reynolds and Wilde's characters at this Midtown restaurant hotspot. (Off-screen, the locale also has a celeb following, having hosted the likes of Virginia Madsen, Owen Wilson and Elizabeth Banks.)