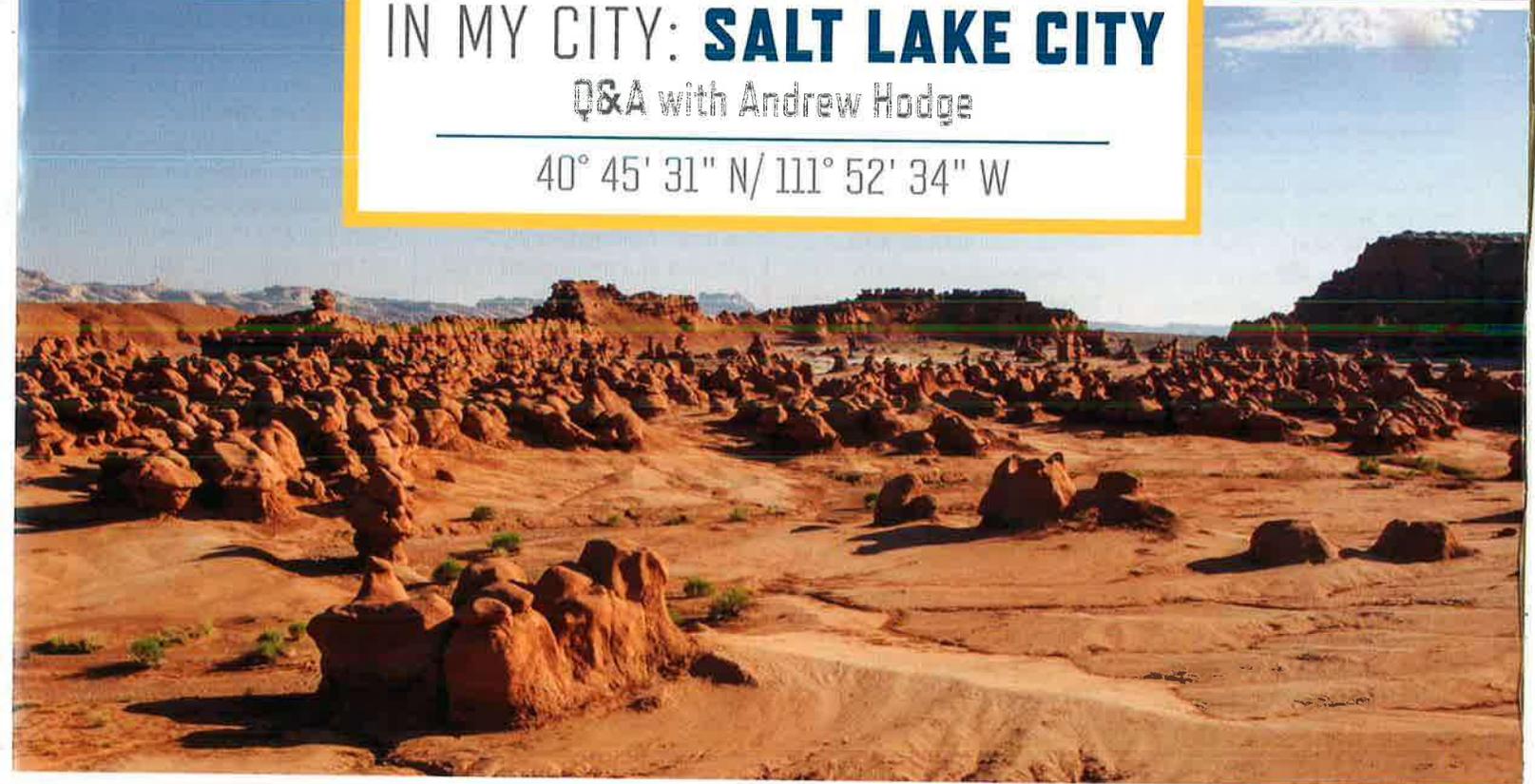




IN MY CITY: **SALT LAKE CITY**

Q&A with Andrew Hodge

40° 45' 31" N / 111° 52' 34" W



Co-editor **Stevie Nelson** gets a tour of Salt Lake City from member **Andrew Hodge**

Stevie: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING IN LOCATIONS? HOW DID YOU START & WHAT DO YOU PRIMARILY WORK ON?

Andrew Hodge: I was born in New Jersey and grew up in Wisconsin and New Jersey. When I was a kid, I thought I wanted to be a fireman or stuntman. I first got into photography after a high school filmmaking class. We made our own movie with clay animation, cutting, splicing, editing, etc. I moved into still photography. My mentors were all attending the Rochester Institute of Technology. I started working as a still photographer in Plainfield, NJ, and at night, worked in many wet darkrooms so I could play during the day.

I traveled around the country on a photo sabbatical in 1990: 20,000 miles, seven months and more than 30 states. I hooked up with American Peace Test and Seeds of Peace. We set up the logistic base camps for feeding and camping protesters in Mercury, NV, for the nonviolent activism against nuclear testing. After that, we traveled to Honeydew, CA, to set up similar base camps for Redwood Summer, the long nonviolent protest against the cutting of old-growth redwood trees in Northern California. All these logistics would later serve me well in locations. I met my daughter's mother in Utah and I decided to relocate from the East Coast. I was always a skier and had previously researched Salt Lake City (SLC) as a possible location to land. I have had a house in Utah ever since. It serves as a perfect base camp for everything west of the Mississippi.

“Salt Lake City ... serves as a perfect base camp for everything west of the Mississippi.”

I have been working in locations since leaving still photography after traditional darkroom work ended and the digital age took over real film. After 10 years working in still photography and darkrooms, I started working as an assistant on local TV shows and movies. I asked a friend who worked on the TV series *Touched by an Angel* if he knew any location managers looking for help. He put me in touch with a location manager who gave my name to another location manager who hired me as an assistant LM. It was a perfect



Photo courtesy of Andrew Hodge/LMGI

fit! I have worked on numerous jobs with him over the last 20 years. Currently, I work on a variety of media from feature films to TV series and commercials to print ads and internet YouTube-branding commercials, original content movies, series and videos.

Stevie: WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE PRIMARY DRAW FOR FILMING IN & AROUND SALT LAKE CITY & ITS SURROUNDING AREAS IN GENERAL? WHAT KIND OF “LOOKS” ARE THERE?

AH: The primary draw to Salt Lake is the landscape. We have gorgeous mountains with aspen and pine tree forests, beautiful red rock canyons like nowhere else in the world within an hour of Salt Lake City. The Salt Flats and the Great Salt Lake, which is so big it has doubled for the ocean. Desert landscapes and some great urban looks downtown with buildings made from indigenous granite to modern glass architecture.

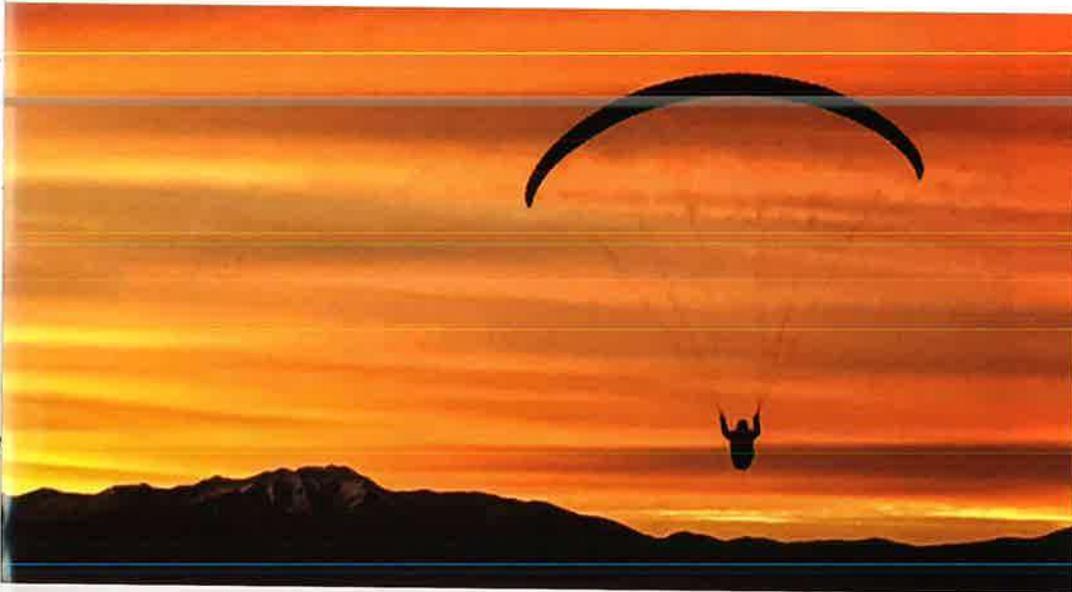
Stevie: WHAT TYPES OF PRODUCTIONS FILM IN SALT LAKE?

AH: We currently have a couple of series being shot here: The Taylor Sheridan-directed TV series *Yellowstone*, starring Kevin Costner, Disney's *Andi Mack* and Studio C-BYU TV. Salt Lake also has a couple feature films being prepped and there is always preliminary scouting with producers not sure of where to take their project.

Stevie: WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE IN YOUR JOB?

AH: Scheduling and short prep times. Often, the permit requests from the film companies conflict with a jurisdiction's permitting deadlines. And since technology is constantly changing, another challenge is keeping up on the newest tools, apps and camera gear. Filing images can be quite time-consuming. One image could be filed in 10 different categories for one specific part of town. Multiply that by neighborhoods, towns, counties, regions and the state.

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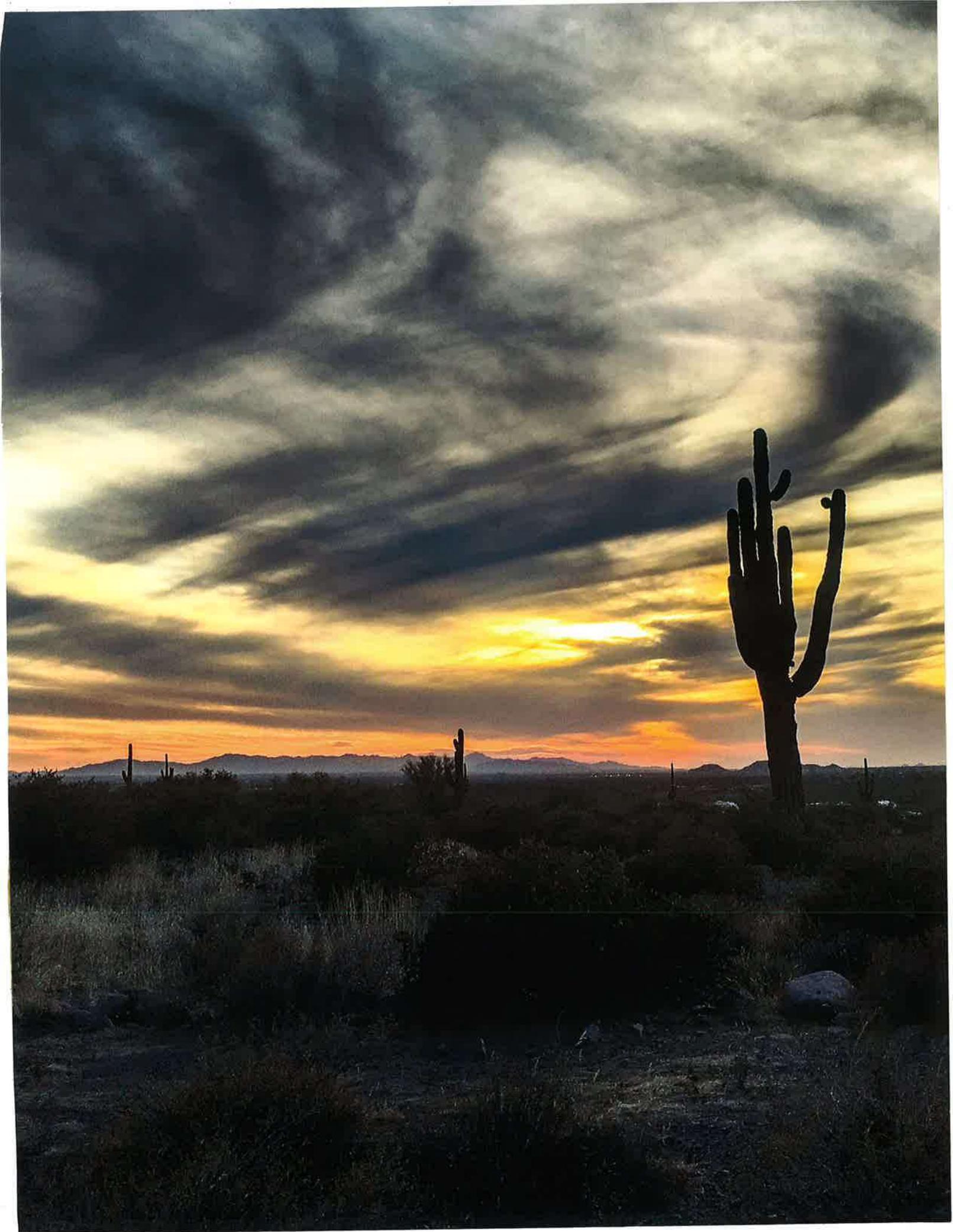


There are lots of data to file, plus all the contacts. Our film community and resources are not as robust as Los Angeles, where there is a much bigger data base of film-friendly locations, so there is often a lot of legwork and research to do.

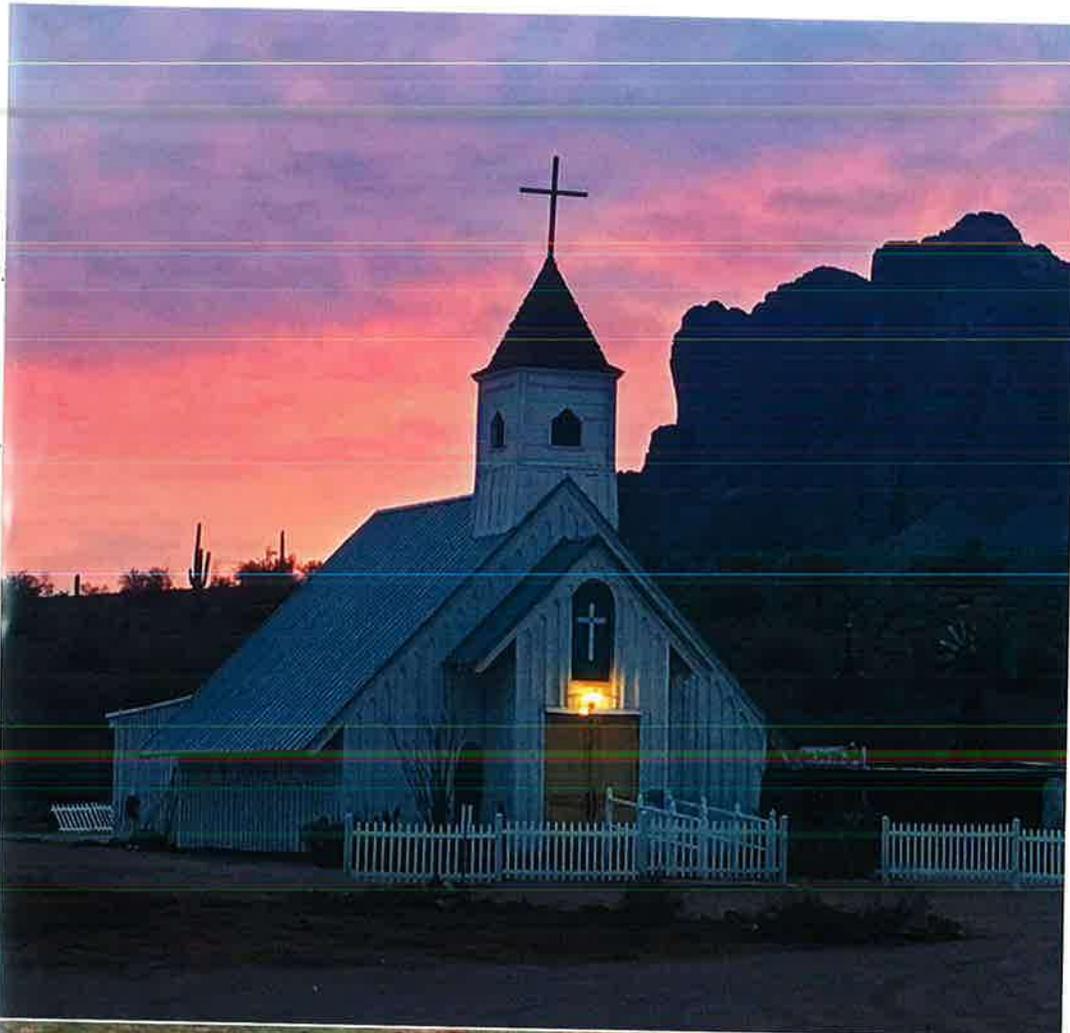
Stevie: WHAT ARE A LOCATION MANAGER'S FAVORITE "LOOKS" OR LOCATIONS IN & AROUND SALT LAKE? WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL FAVORITES & WHY?

AH: Snowbird Ski Resort is one of my favorites. It has access to the snow and an experienced and accommodating staff. We have filmed stunt actors on top of the tram fighting, cars driving up the mountain. TV shows like *Everwood* and features like *The Giver* and the critically acclaimed *Wind River* have filmed on the mountain. *High School Musical 1, 2 & 3* filmed at East High School.

The Utah State Capitol doubled as the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., for *Legally Blonde 2*. The Little America Hotel is one of our most prestigious hotels in downtown Salt Lake. Just north of there are some great urban city street looks: 600 South to 100 South from State Street to Main Street's houses and neighborhoods, Yale Harvard area, the Avenues neighborhood, Federal Heights and Walker Lane. Tomahawk Drive southeast of SLC offers upscale homes with Salt Lake City as the backdrop. The classic baseball movie *The Sandlot* was filmed throughout various city neighborhoods. One of the oldest areas is the Capitol Hill neighborhood, called the Marmalade District which features beautiful old homes and great sunsets. *Dumb and Dumber* filmed in nearby Park City. And of course, the world-famous Bonneville Salt Flats, which hosted *The*



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World's Fastest Indian, Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End and Independence Day.

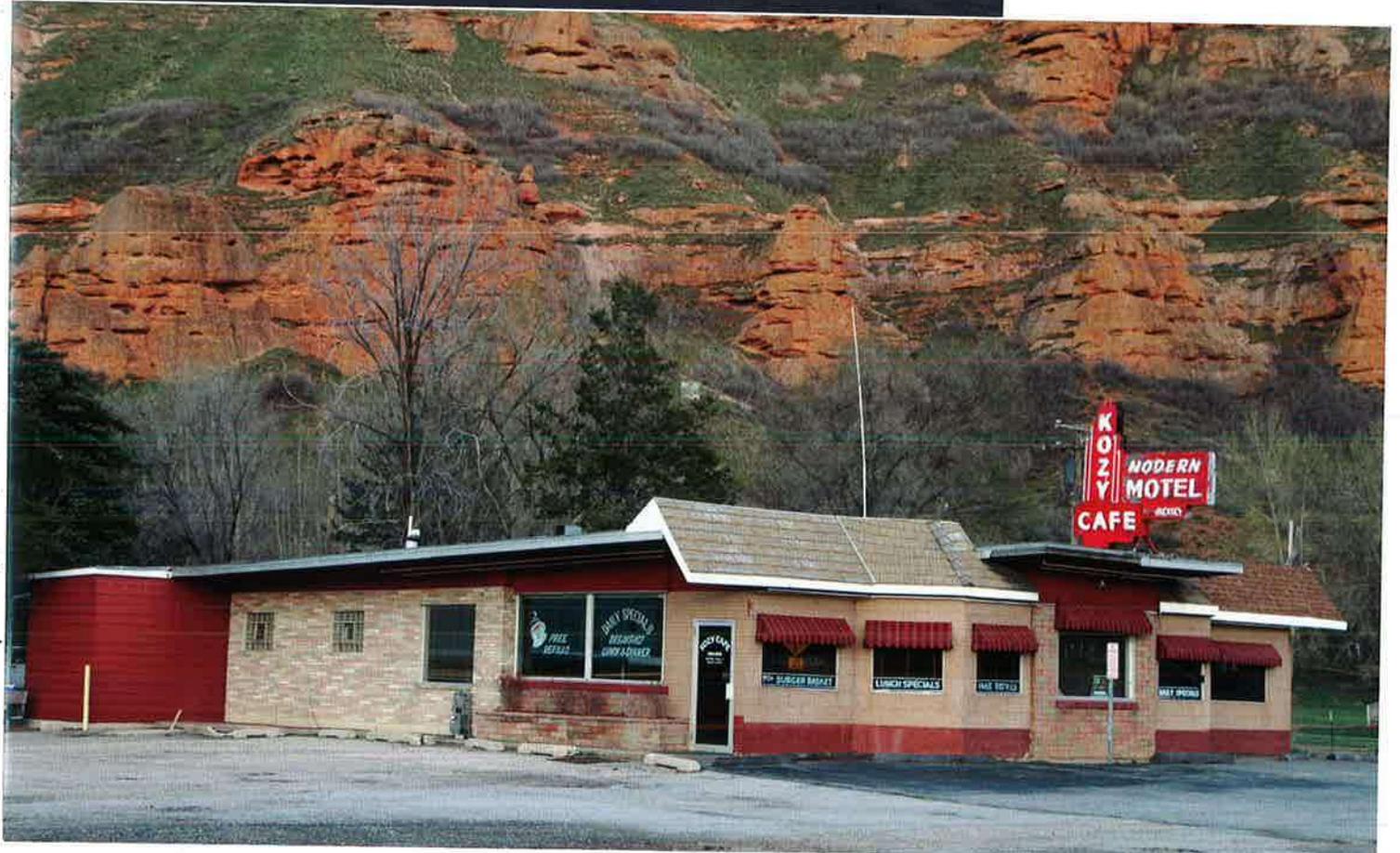
Stevie: WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE OR MOST MEMORABLE FILMING EXPERIENCES?

AH: Sunrises and sunsets. Being the first one in and watching the day take shape.

Stevie: DOES UTAH OFFER ANY INCENTIVES TO HOLLYWOOD FILMMAKERS?

AH: Yes, Utah does offer an incentive program for Hollywood. Projects are approved by the Governor's Board of Economic Development. \$8.29 million is allocated per year. Television shows like *Andi Mack* on the Disney Channel and *Yellowstone* for the new Paramount Network are some of the projects that have qualified for these incentives.

Stevie: WHAT ARE YOUR TOOLS OF THE TRADE?



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AH: Canon 5D camera, 17-40 L lens, 24-105 L lens, Mac Book Pro, iPad, Goal Zero Sherpa 50, 4-wheel Toyota truck.

Stevie: WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE JOB?

AH: Everything! Beautiful sunrises and sunsets, always different and interesting people, artistic collaboration, scheduling challenges, negotiating, long hours, timeline driven schedule, fulfilling a director's vision.

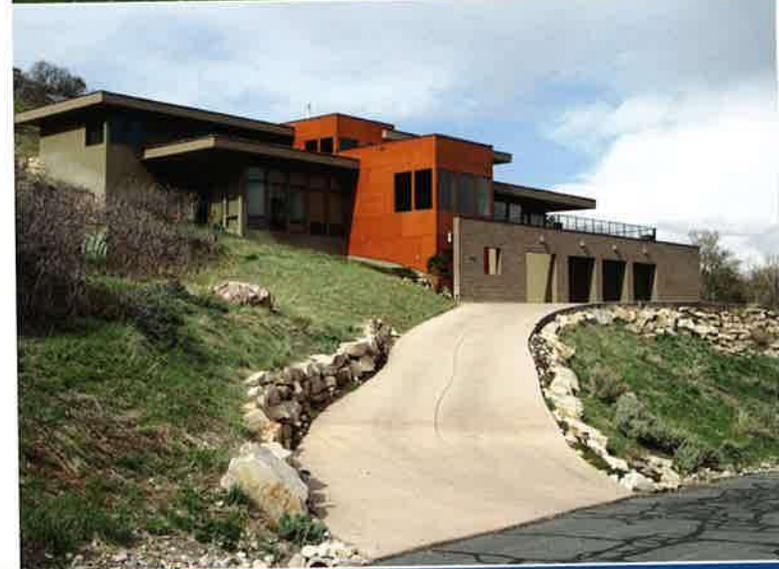
I have a couple passions other than location scouting and managing: photography, skiing, mountain biking, kayaking, paragliding, ice skating (hockey), enduro motorcycling and dirt biking. I spend as much time outdoors as possible and when not working, I'm constantly scouting for myself. Rivers for the perfect whitewater rivers to run, paragliding launches and landings, motorcycle roads and trails, as well as urban cities and culture along the way.

Stevie: WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF OR SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT IN THIS PROFESSION?

AH: Integrity, Humility, Humanity and Respect. Enjoy—we are playing make-believe.

Stevie: WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN THE LMGI & HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

AH: I wanted to keep consistent with the standards and practices in my industry and to network more and meet people in my profession.



Andrew's Private Tour

MUST-SEE PLACE:

Little Cottonwood Canyon, Alta, UT. A national forest that leads to the Lone Peak Wilderness. Home to Alta and Snowbird Ski Resort. It is full of hiking and biking trails.

FAVORITE SHOP:

Black Diamond Store. A mountain climbing and outdoor recreation shop founded at the same time as Patagonia. It branched off in the early seventies and has made Utah its home for 30 years.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT:

Valter's Osteria. Italian fare and you must let the chef/owner Valter order for you if possible. After work, drinks and upscale casual dining. Great for a business meeting or company dinners, you can't go wrong.

PLACE TO SEE BY NIGHT:

Eccles Theater, Temple Square. Salt Lake City's newest theater, featuring live music and Broadway hit plays.

BEST DAY TRIP:

Moab, a small town in southern Utah known for its vivid red rock formations. John Wayne filmed *The Comancheros* and *Rio Conchos* there. Moab has hosted many other films like *Need for Speed*, *John Carter*, *Thelma & Louise*, *After Earth*, *Transformers: Age of Extinction*, *127 Hours*, *Star Trek*, *Mission: Impossible II*, *Con Air* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Edward Abbey wrote about the area in the late sixties and brought attention to the region through his popular book, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. Today, it serves as a mecca for mountain bikers, river raf-

ters and mountain climbers. You can take a jeep or horseback tour through the red rock and up to the La Sal Mountains overlooking Moab. There you have the contrast of the red rock with its snowcapped peak, green forest and high alpine terrain.

FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD:

Capitol Hill. This upscale Salt Lake neighborhood gets its name from the Utah State Capitol, prominently overlooking downtown. It has beautiful views of the city.

FAVORITE LOCAL ARTIST:

Pat Bagley, a local editorial cartoonist and journalist in the Salt Lake area. He has been with the *Salt Lake Tribune* magazine and has been published nationwide. He is the author of several books and was a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Cartooning.

BEST BAR/CLUB:

The Urban Lounge. Loud and intimate. It has a very college feel, good live alternative music. A hip scene for the younger kids in the area.

BEST PLACE TO HEAR MUSIC:

Red Butte Garden, Kingsbury Hall, the Depot. With a laidback vibe, Red Butte Garden in an outdoor amphitheater similar to the Hollywood Bowl with a smaller and quainter wooded outdoor setting.

BEST VANTAGE POINT/SCENIC VIEW:

The top of Snowbird Ski Resort. It has great views of the surrounding mountains. Great for skiing in the winter, hiking in the summer and getting out of the heat in Salt Lake. It averages 20 degrees cooler than the city.

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