

Global Studios

Seven state-of-the-art production facilities that are giving Hollywood a run for its money

1. Baja Studios, Mexico

Raw data Baja Studios offers exterior and interior water tanks with a combined volume of more than 20 million gallons. The largest exterior tank, which holds 16 million gallons, affords a seamless horizon vista of the Pacific Ocean. The studio also has a five-acre backlot area with an unobstructed ocean view.

Résumé *Pearl Harbor, Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World, Tomorrow Never Dies*

The pitch Built by Fox in 1996 for the filming of James Cameron's *Titanic*, the 35-acre oceanfront studio in Baja California is known first and foremost as a facility for water-related shoots. A strong draw for Hollywood-based producers is, of course, reduced travel expenses due to the studio's proximity to California: It's just a half-hour drive south of the San Diego-Tijuana border.



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2. Pinewood Indomina Studios, Dominican Republic

Raw data This just-announced film and television production facility will initially comprise more than 53,000 square feet of soundstage space along with more than 160,000 square feet of production support facilities. The 35-acre site will also include a water effects facility, including an exterior water tank with natural ocean horizons, blue-screen capabilities and a fully equipped diving and marine department. When completed, it will be the only tank of its type and size in the region. Commencement of initial operations is expected by early 2012.

Résumé None

The pitch Located in the beach town of Juan Dolio on the Dominican Republic's southern coast, about 40 miles east of Santo Domingo, Pinewood Indomina Studios will be a full-service production facility catering to the growing Caribbean and South and Central America markets as well as Hollywood and the rest of the world.

3. 3 Mill Studios, U.K.

Raw data Set on a 20-acre island site within easy reach of central London, 3 Mills Studios provides a full range of production facilities, including 14 soundstages, 10 rehearsal rooms, more than 200 production offices, prison exterior and cell set buildings (1700s-1980s), prop stores, paint shops, a screening room and more than 300 parking bays.

Résumé *Frankenweenie, Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*

The pitch Thanks to its proximity to London, 3 Mills Studios provides multiple

location shooting opportunities — both on- and off-site. The studios' exteriors and interiors have doubled as police stations, hospitals, nightclubs, airport lounges and urban London, New York and Victorian streetscapes, all within the facility's secure environment. 3 Mills also benefits from a close relationship with the British Film Institute and screen agency Film London, which can assist in providing access to locations and resources throughout the U.K.

4. Cape Town Film Studios, South Africa

Raw data CTFS offers four soundstages totaling 75,000 square feet, 18,300 square feet of fully furnished production offices and 68,000 square feet of multipurpose workshops and art departments. The complex is also equipped with a 2D/3D 37-seat grading cinema and fiber optic networks that allow for affordable transfer of rushes to any part of the world.

Résumé *Dredd*

The pitch Southern Africa's first custom-built studio hub is located a mere 25 minutes from Cape Town's city center and 10 minutes from Cape Town International Airport. According to CEO Nico Dekker, CTFS, which opened late last year, represents the first significant investment in film infrastructure in the history of South Africa and offers a new level of service to meet the needs of any big-budget production in the region.

5. Docklands, Australia

Raw data Situated five minutes from Melbourne, Docklands is undergoing a \$10.5

million upgrade thanks to funding by the state government of Victoria in a bid to boost production levels. The redevelopment includes upgrading soundstages and undertaking a feasibility study to build Australia's only horizon tank. That would add to the site's five purpose-built, state-of-the-art soundstages, each with its own production offices and associated facilities, as well as a giant workshop suitable for set construction and storage.

Résumé *The Pacific, Don't Be Afraid of the Dark, The Killer Elite*

The pitch Docklands has thrived thanks in part to a range of incentives, including the Australian government's 15 percent location and 15 percent post and digital effects incentive and three key Victorian incentives: the Production Investment Attraction Fund, the Regional Location Assistance Fund and the Head of Department Incentive, all of which can be accessed by productions shooting at Docklands.

6. Huairou Production Base, China

Raw data Huairou's production, post-production and animation facilities can handle 80 films, 100 digital movies and about 500 TV episodes each year, offering extras casting, transportation, equipment rental, production assistance and logistics. By the end of 2011, Huairou will add a branch of the China Film Group film and video postproduction laboratory, offering film processing and printing, DVD manufacturing, copy

developing and sound dubbing.

Résumé *Mei Lanfang, The Karate Kid (2010), The Great Magician*

The pitch Huairou's biggest boast is its coziness to the Film Bureau, which could smooth everything from getting a shooting permit to getting the finished product approved to screen in China, where box office jumped 64 percent to \$1.5 billion last year.

7. Russian World Studios, Russia

Raw data Russian World Studios in St. Petersburg features six soundstages — four at 8,072 square feet and two at 3,767 square feet. It has a Dolby Premier Studio designed by the U.K.'s Harris Grant Associates, one of 15 such facilities in the world.

Résumé *Leningrad, The Spirit*

The pitch The first dedicated film production facility built in Russia in 60 years, RWS developers are expanding the St. Petersburg-based facility into a world-class studio modeled on Germany's Babelsberg or the U.K.'s Pinewood. The facility is a key part of a long-term plan to transform St. Petersburg's burgeoning film sector into a thriving global film hub.

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