

LISA LEE MARTIN: Streaming Visionary and Newkirk's Creative Catalyst

When Lisa Lee Martin arrived in Newkirk, Oklahoma, in 2019 to scout for her supernatural series *Hunting Jessica*—an adaptation she wrote from the *Hunting Series* novels by Elizabeth St. John—she discovered not just a filming location but a vibrant community with deep roots and remarkable stories. Today, as CEO of Raman-Martin Film Productions and founder of RM Entertainment Channel (RME Free TV), Lisa is at the forefront of Newkirk's cultural and creative renaissance.

A New Home, A Renewed Mission

Cee Cee Donovan: Lisa, you came to Newkirk for a film project. What inspired you to stay?

Lisa: I was captivated by Newkirk's charm and history. After creative differences with a distributor, I chose to honor my commitment to this community, moving here and establishing my production company on Main Street. My Choctaw and European heritage, with family roots in Oklahoma City, deepens my appreciation for the area's stories and traditions.

Cee Cee: What makes Newkirk special to you?

Lisa: It's a close-knit town where neighbors support each other, and our law enforcement and fire departments are truly dedicated. I serve on the design and tourism boards, live near our offices, and work with my brother Austin Gerry, our VP, producing everything from Newkirk Hauntings to fitness and cooking shows—all available on RM Entertainment Channel (RME Free TV) across major streaming platforms, including Roku, AppleTV, AndroidTV, FireTV, AmazonPlus, as well as iPhone & Android apps, alongside a webpage at rmechannel.com.

Leading the Way in Film and Television

Cee Cee: How are Raman-Martin Film Productions and RME Channel shaping the industry here?

Lisa: We're building a new model for regional film and TV. Our slate includes *Hunting Jessica* (adapted from Elizabeth St. John's novels), *ChocTalk With Rachael Youngman*, *Cooking With Rhonda*, *Newkirk Hauntings*, *Extreme Justice*, *The Unconventional Kitchen*, *RedEye 420*, with future projects including *The Gateway Series*, *A Thousand Years*, *The Director*, *Mutants*, and *King*. RME Channel is Kay County's only local TV network, available globally and always free, bringing Oklahoma stories to a worldwide audience. We are a full film production company taking you from A-Z. We can even offer distribution.

Cee Cee: Tell us about your partnership with Lee McDermott from the *Vikings* series.

Lisa: Lee is a renowned Scottish fight trainer, choreographer, and storyteller, known for his decade on *Vikings* and work on major films like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Mary Queen of Scots*. "Vikings turned the History Channel back around with a \$480M turnaround, creating a huge brand." He's now co-writing and developing *The Gateway* with me, aiming to film in Oklahoma. As Lee says, "I'd like to see more series coming out of Oklahoma, help Lisa build her company and channel, plus we plan to bring in a comic-con of sorts called the Viking Con." Lee's expertise will be paramount when we launch *Viking Con*—a unique convention celebrating action, culture, and bringing in the main cast from *Vikings* as well as *Vikings: Valhalla* (both currently on Netflix). We also look forward to seeing Lee's own stories brought to the big screen in the future.

If you're looking for the best stunt/fight coordinator around, contact Lee McDermott at leemcdermott70@gmail.com

Celebrating Local Voices and Community Growth

Cee Cee: Your documentary on Newkirk is highly anticipated. What inspired it?

Lisa: My interviews with Karen Dye, author and local historian, inspired the film. Her books—available at the Mercantile and on Amazon—support the Newkirk Community Historical Society. I also learned from residents like Joe Anderson, whose stories reflect Newkirk's evolving spirit.

Cee Cee: Why is Newkirk ideal for families and businesses?

Lisa: The town blends historic charm with opportunity. For Main Street, contact Rhonda Packard; for business, Chamber President Dawn Brakey; for real estate, Gary Bilger; and for film, myself. We're excited about Land Run Distillery's opening, the new monthly dinner club mixing the Newkirk art gallery with Bruno's Italian at 115 N Main, which will open later this year, and the arrival of other new ventures that will shape our future.

RME Free TV: Local Stories, Global Reach

Cee Cee: What distinguishes RME Free TV?

Lisa: Our channel is free and accessible, with a paid preview feature that can be utilized for fundraising—ideal for events, sports, and community initiatives. We're adding a news segment and seeking partnerships to further serve as a resource for local news, education, and entertainment. We have both a live portion, video on demand, and a paid preview feature.

Diverse Original Content

Cee Cee: What are some programming highlights?

Lisa: We offer something for everyone: The Unconventional Kitchen with Krislyn Packard Wilson, Cooking with Rhonda, and an upcoming Viking cooking show hosted by John Bunch. Our mini-documentary on the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple and the paranormal series Newkirk Hauntings and, of course, Hunting Jessica are filmed locally with community support.

Navigating Challenges and Looking Ahead

Cee Cee: How did COVID-19 impact your work?

Lisa: Like many, we faced delays, increased costs, and new protocols. While receiving the original Oklahoma film rebate, we did not receive additional rural or COVID incentives despite qualifying. I did pursue it with ongoing emails after receiving false information about rural uplifts and COVID overtures not being in place until 2021, when in fact the rural uplift was part of the original Compete with Canada Film Act. I encourage filmmakers to be diligent, keep records, and advocate for their projects—I'm always happy to share what I've learned.

Cee Cee: What's next for you and Newkirk's creative community?

Lisa: We're planning a film festival and Viking Con, bringing world-class talent and stunts to Oklahoma. I'm also dedicated to teaching local youth about special effects makeup and filmmaking. And don't miss the annual Charlie Adams Day Event—a true celebration of our community spirit.

Step into Newkirk's story—where history, creativity, and opportunity meet.

For more, visit newkirkoklahoma.com, stop by the Mercantile at 105 N Main St for Karen Dye's books (Newkirk Carved In Stone, Tall Tales and Half Truths) and some yummy food plus shopping, or join us at Land Run Distillery later this summer, the new art gallery/monthly supper club at 115 N Main late 2025, and the Charlie Adam's Day Event.

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