

Headline **US pom movie shutdown grows after HIV scare**
Date **16 Oct 2010**
MediaTitle **Daily Express (KK)**
Section **People & Events**
Journalist **N/A**
Frequency **Daily (EM)**
Circ / Read **30,557 / 97,836**

Language **English**
Page No **18**
Article Size **87 cm²**
Color **Black/white**
ADValue **179**
PRValue **538**



US porn movie shutdown grows after HIV scare

LOS ANGELES: More US adult film companies suspended production after a porn actor tested HIV positive, in a growing scare gripping the multibillion dollar porn movie industry.

At least two more movie makers said they had stopped filming, following two major producers on Wednesday who suspended shoots as doctors scrambled to check if anyone else has been infected.

Meanwhile the clinic at the centre of the scare – which comes six years after up to 14 actors tested HIV positive forcing several film firms to close – said it would take up to two weeks to say who else might have been infected.

On Wednesday Vivid Entertainment and Wicked Pictures, based in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles, the home of lucrative adult movie industry, announced they were suspending production.

On Thursday they were joined by Hustler Video and Digital Playground, and more were expected to follow suit.

“We’ve halted all productions until we can do whatever we can to find out who this actor has been in contact with,” chief executive Samantha Lewis told AFP, adding: “There probably will more companies coming on board.”

Rob Smith of Hustler said in a statement that a film currently being shot would continue. But he added in a statement: “We have no plans to begin additional production until we get a better overview of the current situation.”

Lewis added that the infected actor was male and had not worked on any Digital Playground’s films – adding that she believed he was not infected on a movie set, where checks are made regularly.

“We’re hearing that it came from a completely non-industry related situation. We’re hoping that that does prove to be true and that we have no worries,” she said.

The HIV case, the first in more than a year in the industry, has fuelled calls for film companies to force actors in their movies to use condoms. – AFP