



# News Release

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## WESTERN HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Sept. 30, 2004 — Missouri Western State College will host the Griffon International Film Festival, a juried event featuring 40 comedy, documentary, and dramatic award-winning films from all over the world, including Scotland, Italy, England, and the United States.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. Oct. 15 in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, Kemper Recital Hall, and will run all day Oct. 16 and 17. The community is invited to attend.

“We are bringing filmmakers to Missouri Western and St. Joseph to expose our students to independent filmmakers and to films they won’t see in most theatres,” said Deny Staggs, assistant professor of theatre and coordinator of the film festival. He said over 175 films were submitted from all over the world for inclusion in the festival, and only 40 were chosen. “It’s not your mainstream type of films, but they are very entertaining.”

Along with film showings throughout the two-and-a-half day event, filmmakers will also offer “hands-on” master classes such as Auditioning and Casting, Shaping Your Story into a Screenplay, Camera Dance, the Art of the Handheld Camera; and Shoot Day and the Role of the Assistant Director.

Staggs noted that the film festival will be a great learning experience for students. They will benefit not only from the master classes, but also from the seeing the diversity of films and ideas in creating those films.

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Friday evening events are free, and will be held in the Kemper Recital Hall of the Spratt Building. Ticket Prices for Saturday and Sunday include the All-Access Pass for \$30 for all classes and all films. A Festival Pass is \$15 and includes passes to all the films, but not the classes. Individual screenings are \$5. Admission to the films is free for Western students.

Participants may obtain schedules of the film showings and classes, or purchase tickets in the foyer Spratt Building throughout the festival. Tickets do not need to be purchased in advance.

“We have everything from animation to comedy to drama to international films,” said Staggs. “Everybody’s really excited.”

The festival is sponsored by the Western student group Communication Connection. For a complete listing of the schedule, films, film information and ticket information go to <http://www.mwsc.edu/griff> or call 816-271-4441.

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*Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.*