



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@missouriwestern.edu

WESTERN HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 29, 2005—Missouri Western State University is again hosting the Griffon International Film Festival, an independent film exhibition featuring short comedy, animation, and dramatic award-winning films from all over the world, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Australia, England, and the United States. The community is invited to attend. All events are free, but donations will be accepted for the American Red Cross.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. Oct. 27 in Leah Spratt Hall, Kemper Recital Hall on campus. Films will be shown at the East Hills Library, 502 N. Woodbine at 7 p.m. Oct. 28. The Wallace AMC 10 theatres in the Shoppes of North Village will host the animation exhibition starting at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 29. Also on Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m., filmmaker workshops will be held at Murphy Hall on the Western campus. At 6 p.m. Saturday the Horseshoe Lake Drive-In on east Hwy. 6 will feature “The Best of the Fest,” along with the showing of St. Joseph native Ben Meade’s “Bizarre Bizarre,” a film about Kansas City serial killer Bob Bordello.

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Special guests of the festival include Tara Veneruso, director of “Janis Joplin Slept Here;” Eric Mofford, assistant director of “24” and “Clockwatchers,” as well as filmmakers from New York and Los Angeles.

“We are bringing filmmakers to Missouri Western and St. Joseph to expose the community and 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 25 were chosen. “Even though these are not your mainstream ‘Hollywood type films,’ they are very entertaining and thought provoking.”

Hands-on filmmakers workshops include: The Screenwriting Session, The AD: The Logistical Backbone of a Film, Directing for DV, Technical Workshop, and Indiewood: Producing a Short and a Feature.

Staggs noted that the film festival will be a great learning experience for students. He said 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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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university 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.