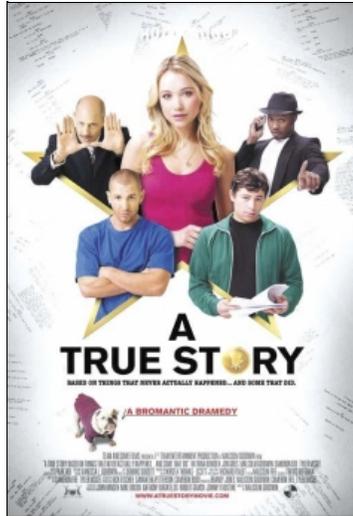


The Athens NEWS

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Athens native helps bring film fest back to town

By Sijie Wang



Attracted by Athens' status as a "quintessential college town," Eric Zudak, a film producer who grew up in Athens, decided to make it the next stop of his touring film festival, which aims to support independent movies.

Zudak, along with his partner, Matthew Jordan, film and media professor at Pennsylvania State University (which was the festival's previous stop in March), has brought to the Athena Cinema this week 10 features and eight short films.

Each screening will be followed by discussion with filmmakers and professors, including recent Emmy winner Carrie Preston, director of the festival's closing movie, "That's What She Said," according to Zudak.

Zudak serves as executive producer for opening night movie "Karaoke Man," which he says is "a romantic comedy that guys wouldn't mind seeing."

Most of the movies to be shown were selected at the beginning of this year. Considering Ohio University's "inter-departmental cooperation," Zudak and his partners added a few movies to the screening list to engage more people from the university community who are "expert in their particular field," Zudak said.

"We tried to come up with an interesting and diversified program, so that there's something for everyone," he said.

Besides a particular program for short films, they are also paired with features. "We tried to find the common theme between the two and put them together," Zudak said. "We just want to bring quality films to the university where commercial elements of a film is not the primary focus."

The screenings of "College Town Film Festival" will be from today (Oct. 3) through Saturday at the Athena Cinema, with an opening last night at Jackie O's. Events are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 3

1 p.m. Screening "No Horizon Any More" (documentary). Followed by panel discussion with director Keith Reimink, professor Ryan Fogt and professor Annie Howell.

3:30 p.m. Screening "Tribe Wanted: Sierra Leone." Followed by panel discussion with director Johnathan Sarno; Geoff Dabelko or the Voinovich [School of Environmental Policy](#); Bruce Martin, recreation and sport pedagogy; and Jeremiah Asaka, president of the African Student Union at OU.

5:30 p.m. Happy Hour at The Cat's Eye

7 p.m. Screening "Karaoke Man." Followed by Q&A with writer/director Mike Petty; co-writer Kevin Guzowski; executive producer Eric Zudak and professor Shelley Delaney

Friday, Oct. 4

1 p.m. Screening "Twilight of The Gods." Followed by a panel discussion with director Julian Doyle, professor Vladimir Marchenkov, professor Dora Wilson and professor Dennis Delaney.

3:30 p.m. Screening "The Unusual Calling of Charlie Christmas." Introduction by Tom Vander Ven, professor of sociology and criminology.

5:30 p.m. 8 Short Films (92 minutes): "Who is Arvid Pekon?" (Poland); "Buddy" (USA); "Safety" (USA); "The Glory" (Australia); "Revenant" (USA); "Baffle Their Minds with Bulls**t," Kerry Leigh (USA); "Paper People" (USA); "Tu & Eu" (USA/Portugal).

7 p.m. Screening "A True Story." Followed by Q&A Director Malcolm Goodwin and writer-actor Cameron Fife.

10 p.m. Screening "Beyond The Grave."

Saturday, Oct. 5

1 p.m. Seminar: "Making Movies with Monty Python." Hilarious tales from Python veteran Julian Doyle.

1 p.m. Screening "Congratulations."

3 p.m. Screening "Too Cold Out There Without You." Followed by Q&A with the Rev. Christopher Fike, director Amy Gattie and Delfin Bautista, director Ohio University LGBT Center.

7 p.m. Screening "That's What She Said." Followed by Q&A with Carrie Preston of HBO's "True Blood" and professor Pearl Gluck.

10 p.m. Closing Night Concert Party at Jackie O's with Bob "The Bachelor" Guiney & American Dad's Scott Grimes.

For more information, including tickets information, visit:

<http://collegetownfilmfestival.com/>

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