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PRESENTS



State College, Pennsylvania • April 16 - 19

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*Happy Valley Communications
Student Film Organization*

From The Executive Director

Thanks for checking out the first stop of the 2014 College Town Film Festival.

I started this festival with one goal. To help filmmakers find an audience. Along the way, we discovered that audiences were searching too. Searching for something that transcends and undercuts the Hollywood system; and I thought what better place to do this than a college town? College towns are perfect places for new ideas, full of thinking people with faculty, students and university communities with a deep interest in genuine discussion and learning.



The truth is if you want to promote independent film, you have to bring audiences fun, smart and/or important independent films that have something new to say.

It turns out that if you announce to filmmakers that you plan to screen their movie on several college campuses... you will have one hell of an eclectic list of movies to choose from.

So see a bunch of movies this weekend. Go to that documentary you'd normally shy away from. Attend a workshop. Drag your friends to the short film programs. And don't miss the opportunity to interact with a legend: Julian Doyle.

And then, let us know what you think. Tell us what you love. Tell us what you hate. And tell us why.

I'm proud to say that this festival is still an experiment. I hope it always will be. Welcome to our traveling laboratory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Zudak'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric Zudak
Executive Director, College Town Film Festival



Films and Events - Wednesday, April 16th

Documentary: *Alberta Legacy 2*



4/16 • 3:00 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 120 minutes
A Q and A is scheduled.

Directed by Hossein Shamaghdari, *Alberta Legacy 2* tackles the issue of brain drain in Iran. With frank interviews and candid discussions, Hossein explores the lives of Iranian students studying in Switzerland, France and Germany. Students address the possibility of never returning to their home country... often criticizing the government that refuses to support them.

Shorts Program: *Exceptional Shorts Part I*



4/16 • 5:00 PM • The State Theatre
78 minutes

A compilation of unique and unusual short films that offer a great cross section of styles in this under appreciated art form. Selections include: *Le Train Bleu*, *Seasick Sailor*, *The Men's Room* and *Goosey's Big Movie*.

Feature: *Ripped!*



4/16 • 7:00 PM • State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 120 minutes
Q and A with Rod Bingaman and Maura Shea

From Happy Valley's own Ma and Pa Productions, produced and directed by Penn State Senior Lecturers Rod Bingaman and Maura Shea. A comedy sci-fi musical about a chimpanzee who accidentally blasts 1960s pop group "Norman's Normans" to the planet Hormone, where their catchy tunes bring about an intergalactic mission of groovy diplomacy. A World Premiere.

Shorts Program: *Bloody Shorts*



4/16 • 9:30 PM • The State Theatre
86 minutes

Take a cruise through the dark side with this selection of six short films from every corner of the horror genre. Expect the unexpected...

Selections include:

Silence • Heebie Jeebies • Calibri • Lucy Riddance • What's Life Got To Do With It?

Films and Events - Thursday, April 17th

Lecture: *The Language of Film with Julian Doyle*



4/17 • 11:00 AM • The State Theatre
90 minutes

Lecturer: Julian Doyle

A discussion of the story-telling principles and art of communicating through film, led by Julian Doyle, editor of the controversial and highly acclaimed 1985 film *Brazil* as well as the Monty Python films: *The Life of Brian*, *The Holy Grail* and *The Meaning of Life*.

A Pair of Shorts: *Strangers* and *The Beating*



Strangers

4/17 • 1:00 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 90 minutes

Panelists: Actor James Denton & Director Eric Howell
(*Strangers*)

Actor/Writer Paul Stroili & Director Cyrus Mirakhor
(*The Beating*)

The short film is often misunderstood, misinterpreted and misrepresented. Join us for the screening of two short films; *Strangers* and *The Beating*, followed by a discussion focused on the intricacies of making a successful short film, from conception to marketing, with an emphasis on how short films differ from features. Find out why they are not just “what you do when you don’t have the money to shoot a feature.”



The Beating

This panel will feature actor James Denton, who offers a unique perspective on the indie world of short films. He has appeared in blockbuster Hollywood films, starred in dozens of television series and continues to perform live theatre. So what is the appeal of the short film and how does it differ from more conventional productions?

Feature: *Twilight of the Gods*



4/17 • 3:30 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 147 minutes
Q and A with Director Julian Doyle

The composer Richard Wagner and the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche were good friends. But on the day of Wagner’s triumphal opening of his new opera house Nietzsche walked away from his friend and later threatened to kill him. The reason for the dispute is revealed when the ghost of Wagner visits the raving Nietzsche in the Turin Lunatic Asylum.

Films and Events - Thursday, April 17th (Continued)

Script Reading: *Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll*



4/17 • 4:00 PM • The State Theatre • 2nd Floor
Script Reading and Discussion: 90 minutes
Q and A with writers Kevin Guzowski and Mike Petty

There's something about a college town. Something about the best time of your life. Something about the sex. Something about the drugs. Something about the rock and roll. And then, suddenly, it's over. Unless it's not.

Feature: *First Light*



4/17 • 7:00 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 140 minutes
Q and A with Actor/Director Tom Calder

A quirky pavement and road movie across nocturnal London with a focus on addiction; this US Premiere is the story of a couple in denial and their journey to self-awareness. Shot over 3 years, the film was self-funded... with the principle actor serving as DP. Join actor, director, writer Tom Calder to discuss his passion for this project and his long journey to completion.

Concert and Party: *Qiet*



4/17 • 10:00 PM • The State Theatre

Qiet is the culmination of this wild and wondrous world, infused with every culture on the planet and refined in the mountains of West Virginia. The songs radiate an undeniable energy, passionate lyrics and humor dark as coal. Qiet's visceral performances will keep you dancing long after the concert's over. Combining the elegant excesses of 1920's jazz with the unpredictability of punk rock, what results is not just a show -- it's an experience. Don't believe us? Come see for yourself.



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Films and Events - Friday, April 18th

Seminar: *Auditioning in the Electronic Age and the Business of Acting with James Denton, Marta Milans, Cameron Fife and Rane Jameson*



**4/18 • 10:00 AM • The State Theatre • 2nd Floor
120 minutes**

Panelists: James Denton, Marta Milans, Cameron Fife, Rane Jameson and Thom Goff of Breakdown Services

Thom Goff from Breakdown Services and Actors Access provides insight into auditioning in the electronic age. Find out what to do to keep up with the ever-changing technology that is an essential part of the working actor's life.



The seminar continues when acclaimed actors James Denton, Marta Milans, Cameron Fife & Rane Jameson join the panel for a Q&A focused on the business of acting and the wide range of approaches actors employ as they pursue a professional acting career. This seminar provides insight into creative careers, both from the actor's perspective and the perspective of the industry leader in services for the actor.

Lecture: *Making Films with Monty Python*



**4/18 • 2:00 PM • Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library
120 minutes**

Panelist: Julian Doyle

Filmmaker Julian Doyle, editor of *Monty Python and The Holy Grail*, *The Meaning of Life*, and *The Life of Brian*, takes us behind the laughs and the camera to reveal what inspired the legendary Monty Python movies and how they made them.

Screening and Discussion - *Making a Web Series: Darwin*



4/18 • 5:00 PM • The Carnegie Cinema

Screening and Discussion: 90 minutes

Q and A with Actor/Creator Christopher Gerson and Writer Lynn Rosen

A conversation with Christopher Gerson; co-creator and star and writer Lynn Rosen of the new web-series "Darwin: The Series" directed by Emmy Award winning actress Carrie Preston (*True Blood*, *The Good Wife*).

Films and Events - Friday, April 18th (Continued)

Feature: *Scrambled*



4/18 • 7:00 PM • The Carnegie Cinema
Screening and Discussion: 140 minutes

Q and A with Director Frank Reina & Actor Chinyere Nnadi

A wild comic romp about an omelette chef whose ex-best friend still thinks they are best friends and wreaks havoc in all aspects of his life. It's a cross between *South Park* and Almodovar with just a dash of *Animal House*.

Shorts Program: *International Short Films*



4/18 • 9:30 PM • Carnegie Cinema
75 minutes • Q and A is scheduled

Featured: *Rab Da Vaasta*, *Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution* and *A Man Since Long Time*. Three short films about tolerance, revolution and repression. From India, Syria and Egypt these films offer viewpoints sure to bring new perspectives and inspire discussion.

Films and Events - Saturday, April 19th

Seminar: *Everyone is a Filmmaker*



4/19 • 10:00 AM • The Carnegie Cinema

120 minutes • With Mike Petty, Julian Doyle, Thom Goff, Paul Stroili, Cyrus Mirakhor, Eric Howell, Matt Jordan & more

In the not too distant past the term independent filmmaker meant one thing: a guy with a 16mm camera filming his friends in art films that no one would ever see. Today's independent filmmaker is everywhere, not always a guy and delivers the messages, images and content that inform every aspect of modern life.

Feature: *Joy De V.*



4/19 • 12:30 PM • The Carnegie Cinema
85 minutes

Roman is a con-artist, his wife Joy is 7 months pregnant. One morning she vanishes into thin air. That very same morning, Roman discovers that his most consistent scam, disability checks from a faked madness, will run out if he doesn't do something soon to prove he is insane.

Films and Events - Saturday, April 19th (Continued)

Documentary: *How to Lose Your Virginity*



4/19 • 2:30 PM • The Carnegie Cinema
Screening and Discussion: 124 minutes
Q and A with Director Therese Shechter

In a culture where “Be sexy, but don’t have sex” is the overwhelming message to young women, this film goes through the looking glass to understand a milestone that everyone thinks about but few actually understand.

Shorts Program: *Exceptional Shorts Part II*



4/19 • 5:00 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 120 minutes
A post screening Q and A is scheduled.

The short film program continues with a collection of sometimes funny, always provocative, slyly controversial films from a talented group of new and veteran filmmakers. Selections include: *The Beating*, *Thank You Card*, *Where is Joel Baum?* and *First Prize*.

Feature: *Speak Now*



4/19 • 7:30 PM • The State Theatre
Screening and Discussion: 140 minutes
Q and A with Actor Rane Jameson (PSU '05)

Speak Now is a fast-paced wedding comedy about secrets, family and love. This improv-generated film was shot in just 3 days in a single location.

Reception (State Theatre Lobby) 10:30 PM

Join us in celebrating The College Town Film Festival.

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Matthew Jordan, President Dr. Jordan is Associate Professor of Film/Video and Media Studies at Penn State University. He writes books and articles about the importance of film, music and popular culture for helping people understand the issues of their times. He is co-director of the Social Thought Program and serves on the Board of the Association for Cultural Studies.



Carrie Preston currently stars in HBO's "True Blood" and as a recurring character on the CBS drama "The Good Wife" for which she received an Emmy Award. Preston received her BFA from the University of Evansville followed with an acting diploma from the Juilliard School. It was Preston's breakout Outer Critics Award nominated turn as "Miranda" in George C. Woolf's Broadway production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* with Patrick Stewart that led her to her auspicious big screen debut in the Julia Robert's blockbuster *My Best Friend's Wedding*. Carrie recently directed *That's What She Said* starring Anne Heche.



James Denton grew up in Goodlettsville, Tennessee and graduated with honors from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, earning a degree in advertising as a television/journalism major. Jamie spent the next four years selling advertising for two radio stations and then for the CBS affiliate in Nashville, before moving to Chicago to try his hand at acting full-time. After a successful start in Chicago, on stage and both big and small screens, Denton moved to Los Angeles and continued to develop his career, finally landing the role of Mike Delfino on ABC's "Desperate Housewives."



Michelle Keiser - Shelly Keiser lives in New York City where she works as a 1st AD in Motion Pictures and Television. Credits include: "Sex and the City," The "Law and Order" programs, "Zero Hour", "The Sopranos", *School of Rock* and *The Royal Tennenbaums*, among many others. Shelly earned a BFA in Theatre from The University of Evansville.

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College Town Film Festival | Creative Team

Eric Zudak, Executive Director - grew up in the college town of Athens Ohio and is the son a former Ohio U Economics Professor, the late Lawrence Zudak. Eric earned a BFA in Acting from the University of Evansville in 1990. He is currently the Director of Business Development for Trifecta Clinical, an IT service provider serving the Pharmaceutical Industry, which has provided the opportunity to visit more than 20 countries. Prior to Trifecta Eric worked at Walt Disney Imagineering and ABC Television.

Scott LeGrand, Technical Director - Since graduate school, Scott LeGrand hit the road running as the production manager for several large rock-and-roll tours, including Van Halen, Metalica and Mötley Crüe and the Grateful Dead's final 3 tours. Scott has also worked on The Grammy's, The Emmy's, The Democratic National Convention and The Summer Olympics. For 5 years Scott worked as an Imagineer at the Walt Disney Company. Most recently, Scott produced the six hour mini-series, "Twentysixmiles" for Tower 17 Productions, and the Feature film *Karaoke Man*.

Kevin Guzowski, Screenwriting and Emcee was born in Chicago, IL., he received his Bachelors Degree from Indiana University in Writing, taught Advanced Screenwriting for The Screenwriters Group, and completed "almost all the work" toward an MFA from Columbia College Chicago. In 2003, Kevin co-wrote the TV Pilot "Whirlybird" (based on the play, "Locked-up Down Shorty's") for Showtime Productions. Since then, Kevin has co-written several features and TV pilots... including the 6 hour mini-series "Twentysixmiles" for which Kevin also served as Creator, Executive Producer and Head Writer.

Emersen Riley, Director of Talent Relations - hails from Silver Creek Township, MN and is passionate about supporting artists. She studied Modern Dance at Perpich Center for Arts Education, and received a certificate from American Musical and Dramatic Academy. After moving to Los Angeles, Emerson appeared as Rumpleteazer in *Cats* and in the film *Knocked Up*. She also worked as a Photography assistant, Production Designer, and in Hair & Make Up for film and television. Emerson spent 3 years as a QA specialist for motion pictures with Deluxe Laboratories.



**Everything I learned...
I learned from the movies.**

Audrey Hepburn

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