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PRESENTS



Penn State University
February 25-28
State College, PA



THAW FESTIVAL
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Film Festival 2015
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**Department of Film/Video
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From The Executive Director

Welcome to the 2015 College Town Film Festival. Thank you for joining us.

We are glad to be back at Penn State and grateful for the support of the PSU Office of Student Affairs and the Borough of State College.

As we continue to define our film-sharing experiment, we find that the cities we visit have a profound influence on the festival. Over the years, PSU and the State College community have become crucial partners in our search for movies that matter. This year's rich and wide-ranging slate of films is the result of the widespread support we receive from the University, the borough and the community.



We have films from all over the globe... some have an unusual approach to filmmaking, many provide thoughtful well-researched social commentary, a few are politically charged and a several are just downright fun. But they all share several discernible traits: they are personal to the filmmakers; they have a one-of-a-kind point-of-view... and they are all driven by a desire to generate informed discussion.

So join us for a stroll outside your comfort zone. If we have done our job, you will be affected by something you see. Maybe you'll be angry; maybe you'll be called-to-action; maybe you'll be impressed with someone you previously feared; maybe you'll just be a little happier.

So yes, I am proud to say that this festival is an experiment... and that we retain the boldness of our initial ideas... I see no reason to change that. So once again, welcome to our mobile laboratory. Enjoy the ride.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Zudak".

Eric Zudak - Executive Director, College Town Film Festival



Documentary: Above All Else



2/25 • 3:30 PM • State Theatre
120 minutes
Q & A with Director John Fiege (PSU '99).

Above All Else, reveals the hidden story of how the Keystone XL pipeline battle in East Texas built a community of resistance to the climate crisis in America. "An inspiring, dramatic, and very timely eco-doc." *John DeFore, The Hollywood Reporter*

Feature: Manos Sucias



2/25 • 7:30 PM • State Theatre
98 minutes
Q & A with Director Alan Blanco (PSU '05) and Producer Marcia Nunes.

A fisherman and a naive young man begin trafficking drugs up the Pacific coast of Colombia. As they tow a drug-filled torpedo, they are forced to navigate through the war-torn region and the growing tension between them. Winner of the 2014 Spike Lee Fellowship Award.

The College Town
 Film Festival
 is grateful for
 the support of
FusionTV.



Fusion is a multi-platform media company that serves a young, diverse, and inclusive millennial generation across its television and digital platforms - fusion.net.

Fusion delivers a unique mix of news, pop culture, and comedy content that is both smart and irreverent. **Fusion** was launched as a joint venture between Univision Communications Inc. and the Disney/ABC Television Network on October 28, 2013.

Fusion has agreements with several major distributors to carry the cable network including DirecTV, Dish, Cablevision, Charter, Cox, AT&T U-Verse, Verizon FiOS and Google Fiber as well as OTT providers including Apple TV.

Shorts Program: International Shorts



2/26 • 10:00 AM • State Theatre
75 minutes

The Sheriff, The Trouble With Aoibhe, Somos Amigos, Sugar Plum Fairy, The Palace, Savitri. Six short films from around the world representing filmmakers from India, Ireland, Netherlands, Australia, Spain and Italy.

Shorts Program: Pair of Shorts



2/26 • 1:00 PM • State Theatre
Q & A with Director Kevin Wells.

Two short films; *Brother Jesse, Will Rap 4 Weed* exam issues of free speech and expression from very different perspectives.

Panel Discussion: Everyone's a Filmmaker



2/26 • 3:00 PM • State Theatre Upstairs
Panelists: Sean Peoples, Julian Doyle, John Fiege, Kevin Wells and Matt Jordan.

We have discovered that anyone who wants to communicate, activate, or have any impact on society or the collective consciousness better have a FILM MAKER. Anyone who wants to accomplish anything and everything, whether they realize it or not, will need to operate as a filmmaker or be able to disseminate their message through film or the logic of film.

Documentary: In an Ideal World



2/26 • 5:00 PM • Hosler 026
83 minutes
Q & A with Director Noel Schwerin.

Follow three men over seven years inside a California prison as they struggle to survive in America's prison system, their stories expose--and honor--the human drama at its core, revealing the institutional nature of racial hierarchies, and the hope and hidden risks of transformative change.

Feature: Booze, Boys and Brownies



2/26 • 7:30 PM • Hosler 026

93 Minutes

Q & A with Veronica Mannion, Writer/Director.

An aspiring actress navigates the musically comedic underbelly of Hollywood in search of fame, fortune (boys) and herself. In this charming campy musical, Vivian, with the help of her straight-talking BFF Amber, navigates the silly and sometimes seedy world of Hollywood and all its obstacles, only to realize they're not the biggest thing standing in her way.

Short: Mousse



2/26 • 10:00 PM • Hosler 026

40 minutes

What could be easier than robbing a small bookie place on the outskirts of town? It's during the year's biggest horse race event and the betting center Washington's Tobacco looks like the ultimate hit for some fast cash. Mousse is a man of pride and principles and is fed up with living as a second-class citizen. But what happens when he faces principles different to his own?

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Documentary: Poverty, Inc.



2/27 • 10:00 AM • State Theatre

87 minutes

The West has positioned itself as the protagonist of development, giving rise to a vast multi-billion dollar poverty industry of NGOs, state and multilateral agencies, and for-profit aid contractors. Drawing from over 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries, Poverty, Inc. unearths an uncomfortable side of charity we are all too tempted to ignore.

Actors Access: Your Acting Career in the Digital Age



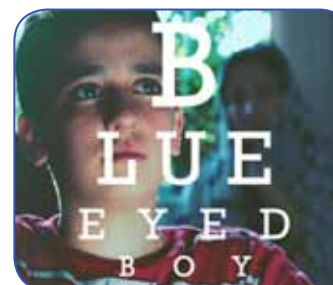
2/27 • 10:00 AM • State Theatre • Upstairs

90 minutes

Panelists: Thom Goff, Tara Lonzo, Paul Stroili, Lenny Garner.

Part One - Thom Goff of Actors Access demonstrates the entertainment industry's primary system for casting. **Part Two** - Casting Director Tara Lonzo, Actor Paul Stroili and Director Lenny Garner will conduct a Q&A on the business of acting and the wide range of approaches to pursuing an acting career.

Common Ground: Two Short Films



2/27 • 12:00 PM • State Theatre

37 minutes

Q & A with Bracha Yaniger, Director.

A Story About Rain, Blue-Eyed Boy - 2 short fictions, one from Israel one from Iran, explore issues of self-perception and how others perceive us.

The Impact of Outsourcing



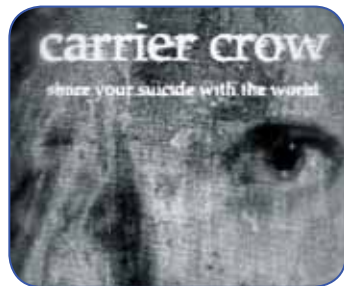
2/27 • 1:00 PM • State Theatre

32 minutes

Q & A with Director Kate Howley.

River Men - Film explores the lives of three men in South River, New Jersey struggling to keep their family-owned businesses running during the offshoring of American Industry and the role of media in shifting America's perception of foreign goods.

Student Shorts



2/27 • 1:00 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs
53 Minutes
Q & A with John Kerfoot and Brendan Takash.
Palm Reader, Hands of Flame, Carrier Crow, Texting: A Love Story, How to Lose Her - 5 short films from Student filmmakers from Ohio U, Loyola, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Academy of Art University.

Documentary: Truth Has Fallen



2/27 • 3:00 PM • State Theatre
60 minutes
Q & A with Director Sheila Sofian.
Truth Has Fallen is a one-hour live action/animated documentary that examines the work of James McCloskey, who founded Centurion Ministries, an organization whose mission is to free prisoners who have been wrongfully convicted of murder. The film asks how innocent people could be convicted of murder, and what could be done to prevent such injustices in the future.

L.I.P.S. Web-series



2/27 • 4:30 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs
23 minutes
 In a future overrun by bureaucracy, the last cowboys are the process servers, hard core snowflakes who color outside the lines. Their bravest is Ozanzigwan, agent of *L.I.P.S.* who in this installment attempts to deliver 30 subpoenas throughout the universe in only ten minutes.

Unafraid: Voices from the Crime Victim's Treatment Center



2/27 • 5:30 PM • State Theatre
44 minutes
Q & A with Karin Venegas, Eddie Venegas.
 Documentary film about rape trauma and the obstacles rape victims face to recovery. Set at St. Luke's Hospital's pioneering Crime Victims Treatment Center in New York City, the film tells the real stories of four survivors - their struggles and ultimate triumphs on the road to healing. This screening is in support of the work of Penn State's Task Force on Sexual Assault.

Feature: Woodfalls



2/27 • 7:30 PM • State Theatre
72 minutes
Q & A with Director David Campion.
 When a family of travellers move to a rural town, conflict ensues amongst the locals. Stigmatised as "gypsies", they are not instantly welcomed into the community.

Shorts Program: Bloody Shorts



2/27 • 10:00 PM • State Theatre
70 minutes
The Wrong Profile, Teasers, Rat Pack Rat, Alive and Unburied, Carrier Crow - 5 short films from horror to surreal in 70 action packed minutes.

Films & Events - Saturday, February 28th

Reading: Original Script: The Duplex



2/28 • 10:00 AM • State Theatre • Upstairs
 Writer/Director Mike Petty (Karaoke Man) and Co-writer Kevin Guzowski provide an original script *The Duplex*, Penn State Theater students, faculty, visiting professional actors and director Lenny Garner.

Shorts Program: Environmental Shorts



2/28 • 10:00 AM • HUB Auditorium
44 minutes
Q & A with Sean Peoples & Gene Bernofsky.
Broken Landscape: Confronting India's Water-Energy Choke Point, Coal Coked - Sean Peoples of the Wilson Center for Scholars and Activist filmmaker Gene Bernofsky bring films which highlight foreign and domestic coal mining and the balance between economics, sustainability and public health.

Lecture: Entrepreneur Robert HSU



2/28 • 11:30 AM • HUB Auditorium

Robert Hsu (PSU 2005) is the Founder and CEO of Impact Eco Wear, an apparel brand that designs, develops and markets a full range of products made from recycled plastic bottles. The goal of Impact Eco Wear is to create the highest quality, most advanced functional products while staying green, affordable and up to date.

Shorts Program: International Shorts



2/28 • 12:00 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs
75 minutes

Second Screening: *The Sheriff, The Trouble With Aoibhe, Somos Amigos, Sugar Plum Fairy, The Palace, Savitri*. Six short films from around the world representing filmmakers from India, Ireland, Netherlands, Australia, Spain and Italy.

Shorts Program: PSU Student Films



2/28 • 12:30 PM • State Theatre
Panelists: Julian Doyle and Malcolm Fife and Lenny Garner.

Flight in Color, How We Love, Silent Struggle, Queen, Donkeymentary - 5 short films from Penn State students followed by a panel discussion with editors Julian Doyle (Monty Python Films) and Malcolm Fife (Fight Club, Her, House of Cards) and director Lenny Garner

Panel Discussion: Women in Film



2/28 • 1:00 PM • Hub Auditorium
Panelists: Sheila Sofian, Tara Lonzo, Karin Venegas and Veronica Mannion.

Discussion of the changing landscape for women in filmmaking and entertainment. Filmmakers Sheila Sofian, Karin Venegas, Veronica Mannion and Casting Director Tara Lonzo will share experiences and answer questions about the entertainment industry.

SHORTS: Female Identity - The Next Next Wave



2/28 • 2:00 PM • Hub Auditorium
Panelists: Director Israel Gutierrez.

What it Takes, Flat Chested - Two short films, by women directors, examine serious life-changing issues through a not-so-weighty lens.

Shorts Program: Art and Film



2/28 • 2:00 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs
36 minutes
Q & A with Director Kristian Berg.

Poustinia, Once There Was a Cigar Box Two short films about unconventional artists each uniquely inspired by their environment.

Documentary: Carry the Tune



2/28 • 2:30 PM • State Theatre
73 minutes
Q & A with Paul Trapkus, Director.

Music educators estimate that 75% or more of high school music students will quit their musical studies after high school. Many are pulled into paths toward economic growth and are unaware of the musical opportunities in college and beyond. *Carry the Tune* is the story of people who have discovered these opportunities.

Shorts Program: Parenthood



2/28 • 4:00 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs

Tiny Things, Hole in the Stomach, Consolation Prize - 3 Short films explore the complicated maze of reproductive impulse, parental instinct and the fallout from these basic human characteristics.

Documentary: Queers in the Kingdom



2/28 • 5:00 PM • State Theatre
68 minutes
Q & A with Markie Hancock, Director.

Queers in the Kingdom: Let Your Light Shine tells the story of LGBTQ survivors of Christian colleges while exploring the deep historical roots of evangelical Christianity in the U.S. Bible-based homophobia is alive and well on Christian college campuses where students fear not just being expelled, but going to hell if they are lesbian or gay.

Shorts Program: Random Shorts



2/28 • 5:30 PM • State Theatre • Upstairs
62 minutes

The Chameleon, Resolutions, Building Lines, Gratitude - Creativity, ingenuity and originality form the core of this eclectic and culturally diverse program of short films

Feature: Maltreatment



2/28 • 7:30 PM • State Theatre
67 minutes
Q & A with Director Daniel Vivanco.

Ramiro is a teacher from the south of Chile that does not expect much of life. His relationship with his wife IRMA (Sandra Meezs) has been out a of passion for years. Unexpectedly Irma decides to abandon him. The surrounding events take out the worst of Ramiro while he becomes an obscure person. A story of transformation, when the darkness within rises.

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No 'maintenance' or monthly membership fees.



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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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.

Tracey Tague, Marketing and Public Relations - Is the current owner of T² Strategic Marketing Solutions with over 20 years of experience in providing business strategy, marketing, sales, digital sales and brand relations in the sports, entertainment, digital and music industries. Tracey is involved in several non-profit organizations and numerous professional accolades. Tracey will be working in conjunction with Executive Director, Eric Zudak on all marketing, public relations, sales and music/comedian talent booking for the College Town Film Festival.

Kevin Guzowski, Screenwriter - 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 Rumbleteazer 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.



**“Haven't you ever noticed that
life is like a series of movies?”**

*Matthew Quick
Silver Linings Playbook*

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