

Film festival to host workshop

For Starkville Daily News

The 17th annual Magnolia Independent Film Festival will take place Feb. 19-21 at Hollywood Premier Cinemas as a showcase venue for independent filmmakers.

This year's festival will feature a workshop by award winning filmmakers Rob Underhill and Michael Williams. The workshop will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 21 and is free and open to the public. The workshop, titled "Make it Happen," will discuss all things in the indie filmmaking process from conceptualizing to filming, and from postproduction to presentation.

"I'm looking forward to attending the Magnolia Film Festival for the eighth time," Williams said. "I'm even more excited to be leading a workshop. It is important to me that people realize that you can do a lot in the world of independent filmmaking — you don't have to have large crews, large budgets and fancy equipment. You can tell stories with creativity and ingenuity and make films that are compelling, impressive, and worthwhile".

Williams, a native of West Point, began creating short films in 2004 while in high school and during college, where he studied film at the University of Southern Mississippi. Since then, he has been creating short films and screening them at film festivals and screenings across North America. Williams' professional career in film began in 2007 and his credits range from assistant camera to director of photography on many independent short and feature length films. Michael owns Shendopen Productions in downtown West Point and continues to write and direct his

own independent films, as well as produce films by other regional filmmakers. He also works regionally in the film industry primarily as a 1st assistant camera, camera operator and director of photography. After writing, directing and producing over 20 short films, Williams broke into the feature length film territory with his debut feature, "OzLand." His desire to tell complex stories visually draws him to pursuing a career as a cinematographer. However, as an artist and storyteller, Williams writes and directs films like OzLand on the side so that he can share his stories with the public. Williams is a seven time Magnolia Independent Film Festival alumni. His recent short films "Kane", "Illumination", and "Lukos" screened in recent years with "Lukos" receiving best cinematography in 2011 and best director in 2012 with "Illumination". This year will Michael's eighth year screening at The Mag.

Underhill, a native of Raleigh, N.C., is a Magnolia Independent Film Festival alumni with two films having been selected: "Wolf Call" in 2012 and "Money 1955: The Emmett Till Murder Trial" in 2014. Underhill is a film and TV director, producer, writer and editor. His films have been in competition at over 200 film festivals worldwide, including St. Louis (Academy Award-qualifying), Oaxaca (Mexico), Sunscreen (Academy-sponsored) and Cannes (France). He has received over 70 awards including for Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and has scored rave reviews from top film critics like Mark Bell of "Film Threat" and Anne Brodie of "Criticize This!" Featured on the National Public Radio shows, "The State of Things" with Frank Stasio and "The Story" with Dick



West Point native Michael Williams will lead a film making workshop, titled "Make it Happen," during the February film festival. The workshop is free and open to the public and will cover all aspects of filmmaking. (Submitted photo)

Gordon, Underhill's work is regularly subject in newspapers, radio, TV news and more. In 2013, "Carolina Style" magazine recognized Underhill as one of 25 Most Stylish People influencing positive change in the Carolinas. And he is a 2013 RAWARDS Indie Art Award recipient for Best Regional Filmmaker. His work has aired on the ASPiRE network and

other national US and European TV outlets. For more information about the Magnolia Independent Film Festival visit www.magnoliafilmfest.com or Angella Baker at magnoliafilmfest@gmail.com. Organization efforts are provided by the Starkville Area Arts Council. For additional information about SAAC, visit www.starkvillearts.org or call 662-324-3080.



Missouri Ambassador Richard Scuderi speaks Tuesday at Mississippi State University. (Submitted photo)

Ambassador speaks at MSU

For Starkville Daily News

STARKVILLE — Missouri, the first state to recognize the sovereignty of the United States in 1777, is beginning a new U.S. partnership with Mississippi State University.

The Tuesday Missouri Ambassador Richard Scuderi visited MSU to promote the university's new international collaboration with University International in Baton Rouge in Missouri's eighth year and their relationship about the country with the state and faculty.

In Scuderi's presentation, President Joe DeRubeis at Central Middle College was that in meeting with university with the state, faculty and administration, including MSU President and Executive Vice President Steve Collier and International Institute for Trade Executive Director Joe P. Smith.

"We were pleased to hear of the ambassador's recent election as Ambassador of the Year by the National U.S. and Chamber of Commerce," Collier said. "Ambassador

Scuderi is a very engaging, generous man who is very charming. He took the time to come to Mississippi State to talk about forming a stronger relationship between the countries and our country."

As part of MSU's partnership with the university, MSU's International Institute will begin offering study abroad opportunities in Missouri during the summer break out.

Scuderi emphasized religious freedom and democracy are great to Missouri, and the nation, provided by constitutional democracy, with equal protection of rights for all citizens.

"In Missouri, about 97 percent are Christians, but we have around 1,000 different faiths living in Missouri, so all these freedoms is really not an easy freedom. They're always been together," he said. "All Missourians believe have rights, and we have judges, who protect their religious free time."

Liberty, open political discourse and transparent elections are the standard in

Missouri, Scuderi said.

"We have never been a country of a single party, education is always a foundation of part of Missouri life," he explained.

Following the 2014 Fall Spring events, Scuderi mentioned in both states trade deals, Missouri leaders have implemented a strategy to fight corruption, including clearing wrong people, promoting all good citizens and improving quality, Scuderi said.

"The National Institute for Missouri Development is used to create transparency and confidence of citizens and people," he said. "We are doing research on trade deals and other value goods to state trade and create the influence of national life."

"Students all over the world are being brought to their own countries, but we're doing to offer a degree of unity and dignity in our country," he added.

Scuderi's visit was sponsored by MSU's International Institute, office at High Life International Institute.

Starkville orthopedic surgeon chosen for leadership position

For Starkville Daily News

Dr. Allen Butler, founder and CEO of Mississippi Bone and Joint Clinic and staff orthopedic surgeon at OSU Regional Medical Center, has been selected by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) as one of 20 national leaders to be honored for 2014-2015.



The Leadership Fellows Program (LFP) is an 18-month program and is designed to identify emerging leaders in the field of orthopedic surgery in order to further develop their leadership skills and prepare them for increasing leadership roles in the field of orthopedics on both the state and national levels.

During the following year, Butler will participate in leadership training in multiple venues around the country, including the University of Chicago and Washington, D.C. He will also be given an opportunity to an AAOS national conference and joined with a nationally known mentor in orthopedics.

In addition to his busy orthopedic practice, Butler serves as an adjunct professor in the Mississippi State University Department of Biological Engineering. He is on the editorial board for the Journal of Orthopedics, the leading U.S. journal devoted to hip and knee replacement surgery, where he serves as an editor reviewer for the journal.

Butler is also a fellow of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons where he serves as one of two regional representatives from Mississippi. He is a recipient of the Honorary Award from the Hip Society, a national award for excellence in research in hip replacement surgery.

Butler has been affiliated with OSU Regional Medical Center for eight years and has previously served as the OSU Chief of Surgery. He has been instrumental in the development of the total joint program at OSU, which was awarded a five-year Orthopedics rating in 2013 for excellent outcomes in hip replacement, knee replacement, and hip fracture care.

For more information, call 662-9988.

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