Welcome to the Missouri Film News, a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Missouri Film Office a part of the Missouri Division of Tourism. Here you get the latest updates on film and digital production in Missouri and learn about creative media events happening across our state.

From the Division of Tourism Director:

The Missouri Film Office, a part of the Missouri Division of Tourism, works to develop, coordinate and market the film industry and film-related activities in Missouri. Over the last year, we hope you have enjoyed reading our updated newsletters. We have added more than 200 new Missouri locations to the Reel Scout database, launched a Facebook page and started a dedicated YouTube Channel. Join us on these social media platforms to stay connected to our efforts.

In Fiscal Year 2013, assistance was provided to 121 television series and segments, commercials, films, and web media production projects throughout the state. We partnered with the successful T/F Film Festival, Kansas City Film Fest, St. Louis Filmmaker’s Showcase, Citizen Jane Film Festival and the St. Louis International Film Festival. These events not only stimulate tourism demand, they also provide a platform to celebrate our Missouri film talent as well as reach out to visiting filmmakers from around the world. We presented workshops on working with the film and motion media industry at the Missouri Economic Development Council Conference and The Governor’s Conference on Tourism.

In 2014 we will launch a new website (yes, the last site was created when Lord of the Rings was a hit at the box office), and we will host a Missouri Meet-Up when we attend the Association of Film Commissioners International Location Trade Show this March in Los Angeles. Space is available if you would like to join us on this mission.

The Missouri Film Commission is comprised of nine public and private sector appointees who work to advise the director of the Department of Economic Development on the promotion of the development of film production and facilities in Missouri. We are looking for creative and strategic new members who can advise on the best ways to take advantage of our success of the past, while looking for marketing and promotion opportunities in the future. If you are interested in serving, please e-mail andrea.sporcic@ded.mo.gov.

-Katie Steele Danner

Production News

Mercury Labs, a cinema and communications company in St. Louis, produced digital signage content for RED® Digital Cinema Camera Company, and its new ultra high-definition REDRAY® 4K Cinema player. Mercury Labs produced the commercial spot for St. Louis Motorcars, featuring the Aston Martin Vanquish, to run on high-definition monitors in the dealer showroom.

Boxcar Films, with The Missouri Bar, produced the video The Missouri Plan to educate the public about Missouri’s Nonpartisan Court Plan. The Nonpartisan Court Plan is a merit-based method of selecting state judges, rather than by popular election or simply by appointment. The plan was adopted in Missouri in 1940 to address the issue of corruption in the judicial election process. It has served as a model for the nation with more than 30 states copying the plan in some form.

Three films have wrapped production across the state: indie film The Makings of You was filmed entirely in St. Louis; 20th Century Fox’s Gone Girl finished shooting after six weeks in Cape Girardeau; and an independent feature Room 105 shot in Kimberling City/Branson West.

Mercury Labs’ St. Louis Motorcars shoot, cast and crew of The Makings of You, St. Louis crew on set for Gone Girl, and a set-up for Room 105.
The 22nd St. Louis International Film Festival runs November 14 – 24. The festival will screen 330 films from 54 countries. Highlights include a lifetime achievement award to Oliver Stone, with a special screening of his film JFK, on Nov. 22 - the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy assassination; Cinema St. Louis award to director AJ Schnack, with screenings of his films We Always Lie to Strangers (co-directed with David Wilson), and Caucus; a special spotlight on Human Rights issues films; master classes on independent filmmaking, sound mixing; and programs celebrating the fashion industry. Check out the full schedule.

Want to know what the Citizen Jane Film Festival in Columbia is all about? Check out this video and see what makes this festival, a celebration of independent film by independent women, so special.

Congrats to the True/False Film Festival for their inclusion in Time Magazine’s ’50 Cultural Experiences to Try in 2014’. If you want this experience, passes are on sale now for the Feb. 27 – March 2, 2014, festival in Columbia.

The Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences includes television markets primarily in Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois. The organization is the standard-bearer for excellence in television broadcasting and awards the prestigious regional EMMY®. Out of 92 awards for 2013, 78 were given to Missouri entries. Among them: Coolfire Media/ Coolfire Originals won 5, including one for their Cinema St. Louis PSA; Antidote won 3 for A Story to Tell; The Missouri Press Association won for Deadline in Disaster; and Michelle Davidson won for A Senior Moment. See the full list of winners here.

A nationwide casting search for two young lead roles in an upcoming Walt Disney Pictures film is coming to St. Louis on November 10, at the Sheraton – St. Louis City Center Hotel (400 S. 14th St.) noon - 5p.m. Seeking a 17 – 18 year old female to play a street smart, independent, athletic, natural beauty and a 19 - 23 year old male to play an athletic, smart, handsome, independent spirit. All ethnicities, multi & bi-racial are encouraged to attend. No fancy make-up/ wardrobe please. No acting experience necessary, under 18 MUST be accompanied by parent. There are no fees to attend. This is not an extras casting call.

Missouri State University student April Clore placed as a TV Spec Finalist in the Aclain TV Competiton, with her Shameless script; and fellow MSU student William Schlichter was a quarterfinalist in the Scriptapalooza International Screenwriting Competition for his Walking Dead script- What Money Can’t Buy.

The Ozarks made documentary film No Trespassing, directed by Kate and Lyle Siegenthaler, won the Spirit Courage Award at the Offshoot Film Festival in Fayetteville, Ar. Delving into the cycle of poverty, abuse, neglect and addiction, No Trespassing takes the viewer through “Winter’s Bone” country, into the backwoods of rural Missouri and Arkansas, following one social worker as she travels the foothills and hollers, exploring a way of life we hardly dared dream still exists.

The third season of CinemakC, a weekly showcase for Kansas City-area filmmaking talent, is now airing on KCPT Channel 19. The 13 new episodes feature interviews with some of the region’s most imaginative and accomplished filmmakers with segments to include narrative, documentary and animated shorts, as well as music videos, Web series and feature film trailers and clips. Season three episodes were filmed at Outpost Worldwide. To watch seasons one and two, visit www.cinemakc.com.

Kansas City Women in Film and TV and Kansas City Filmfest present the 3rd Annual Short Screenplay Contest. Enter for a chance to win a $1,000 Grand Prize. The Top 5 Finalists receive a live, staged reading of their screenplay during the 2014 Kansas City Filmfest; one finalist will win the Audience Choice Award. Submissions are taken through withoutabox.com under Kansas City Filmfest. Regular deadline Nov. 22, late deadline Dec. 31, extended deadline Jan. 15, 2014.

A 12-year-old in St. Louis, Kylie Cudney, had an idea for an anti-bullying song called “Feel Small” that might give a positive message to kids who are being bullied. She connected with songwriter Adam Frick who helped her polish the lyrics and director Josh Mullins who worked with her to film a music video. Check out the final project at www.feelsmall.com.
Jefferson City takes top prize as Most Beautiful City in contest

Kansas City is a heartland hotbed of voice-over talent

Regional hunters set for 2nd television season

"R" rating from MPAA disappoints Ozarks cast and crews of faith-based movie

Book to Film for Missouri author, Barbara Watkins

Missouri Native Returns Home to Shoot Feature Film

Faces of Kansas City: Making Hollywood effects in KC

Batman Actress Part of Movie Filming In Creve Coeur

STEAM PUNK ROCKS! CoMo film-makers mix history, sci-fi in elaborate web series

It's a Wrap for Patrick Rea's Counter Parts Short Film

Local Filmmakers Give Back

Watch this: Princess Peach sells musical mushrooms for St. Louis company

New exhibit showcases the career of alum Mary Wickes, famous character actress

John Goodman to become permanent presence at Union Station

Will renewal bring Showtime's 'Masters of Sex' to St. Louis?

Shark bait: St. Louis entrepreneurs set to appear on ABC’s Shark Tank

'Ghost Adventures' will spotlight St. Louis' 'Exorcist House'
Missouri State Penitentiary to be featured on 'Ghost Adventures'

St. Louis singer sets a record on TV's 'The Voice'