Welcome to the Missouri Film News, a monthly e-newsletter produced by the Missouri Division of Tourism in support of the Missouri Film Office. Here you’ll 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:**

I have read a few articles lately about cinematic abundance. Each article points out that the sheer quantity of movies in theaters has now reached a level not seen in decades. This is a good trend. Film culture is thriving.

Also thriving is the awards season to recognize the best of the industry. The nominees for this year’s Academy Awards have been named and Jennifer Lawrence was nominated for her performance in *Silver Linings Playbook* which was the opening night film at last November’s St. Louis International Film Festival. You might remember she was nominated for an Oscar in 2011 for her role as “Ree” in the Missouri filmed *Winter’s Bone*. Good luck, Jennifer.

We invite you to join the Missouri Film industry conversation through social media. MOFilmOffice is on now on Facebook with over 200 likes in the first 24 hours; Twitter @MOFilmOffice with 46 followers; and Pinterest as MOFilm Office - our first board is a collection of Missouri made movie posters. Be watching for a dedicated YouTube channel and a blog which will utilize film and tourism industry guest writers.

May every day of the New Year glow with good cheer and happiness for all in the Missouri film industry!

-Katie Steele Danner

**Made in Mo News**

On December 14, 2012 *Saving Grace B. Jones* was released theatrically in seven cities which included Kansas City, New York and Los Angeles. The film also became available nationwide for video on demand through Amazon. This independent feature was written, produced, and directed by Connie Stevens. Filming took place for this post World War II drama in Boonville where Stevens experienced the true incidents depicted in the film.

Two more made in Missouri films are available for online viewing. You can watch *Bonnie and Clyde vs. Dracula* on iTunes. The film was shot in St. Joseph and Weston. *Last Will*, shot in Kansas City is available for rent or own at Amazon instant video.
Springfield filmmakers have been very busy! Two feature indie films are finished and another starts shooting on Friday. The film **180** is directed by Nathan Pope and stars “Coach” Benjamin Wade and Danielle DiLorenzo from the Survivor series. Wade plays a musician/ singer who must go on after his band mates die in an airplane crash. The film has been released exclusively online. You can see it at Amazon, iTunes, and even Wal-Mart online. Finishing up post production, **Broken Faith** is written and directed by Rikki Holmes and stars Michael Joiner (The Grace Card) as an ex special operative on a quest to rid himself of his past and find salvation. See a sneak peak of the film’s opening scene. **Surrender** begins principle photography this Friday. Written and directed by Danny Rogers, the DP for Broken Faith, the film asks the question, “What would you do if you were held hostage in your church?” You can witness the daily workings of the production when you follow the film on Facebook.

Michael Winingham placed first in the 2012 CinemaSpoke Screenplay Contest with his Rocky Mountain zombie script “Dead Mountain.” Steven Clark took second place with “Edgar Huntly,” an adaptation of the first American novel. Other finalists who earned spots in the Top 5 were Barrett L. Freeman for PARK HAVEN BLUES; Wayne Ault & Daniel J. Cross for “Time Won’t Let Me;” and David Stiffler for “Meretocracy.” The 2013 contest will be announced in February,

The True False Film Festival turns 10 this year. If you have never attended this Columbia 4- day celebration of documentary films you should check it out this Feb. 28 – March 3. Passes are on sale now. The festival is producing a ten year anniversary book in honor of the double digits called, “Rarely Has Reality Needed So Much to be Re-imagined: A mostly true history of the True/False Film Fest.”

St. Charles producer Gayle Gallagher, Pirate Pictures, has been very busy! Her monthly news magazine show StreetScape airs on ABC 30 in St. Louis. Recent interviews include comedian/actor Bob Zany, and actor/musician Gary Sinise.

St. Louis University High School grad James Gunn is one of 12 directors of the film **Movie 43** coming to theaters on Jan. 25th. Movie 43 is an ensemble comedy which intertwines different tales directed by different directors. The very rated R film boasts an all star cast - Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet, Gerard Butler, Halle Berry and more.

Cinema St. Louis will host its annual officially sanctioned Oscar® Experience Fundraiser in St. Louis. The event will be held on Sun. Feb. 24 at Monarch Restaurant. Seating is limited; reservations should be made before Thur. Feb. 21.

**Do you have production news or photos from set to share?** E-mail us at mofilm@ded.mo.gov.