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:

How do you deal with stormy weather and/or winter blues? I enjoy the still-too-short days of February taking in as many films as I can. I look forward to all days of the True/False Film Festival starting Feb. 28th. For 10 years, this four-day festival has gathered thousands of film lovers to downtown Columbia. In 2012, the festival set a ticket record with more than 37,500 tickets sold. True/False has become one of the top documentary film festivals in the world. Go to www.truefalse.org for all of the details.

Two Missouri-filmed movies will make their world debut at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Conferences & Festival (March 8-17, 2013). They both happen to be featuring Branson. We Always Lie to Strangers is a story of family, community, music and tradition set against the backdrop of Branson, a remote Ozark Mountain town that is one of the biggest tourist destinations in America. Here, millions from around the country, and particularly from the American Midwest, flock for a return to "old fashioned, traditional values" and the family-style entertainment of Branson's 100+ staged music shows, many of which feature families performing together. As Branson (like the rest of the country) faces economic uncertainty and changes in attitudes on social issues, the stories of these performing families form a composite both of Branson and of contemporary America. This film is in the Documentary Competition. It was filmed and is co-directed by David Wilson, co-founder of True/False and MU alum A.J. Schnack. Awful Nice is entered in the Narrative Competitive and tells a story about brothers Jim and Dave. They haven’t seen each other in years, but when their father unexpectedly dies, they’re forced to travel down to Branson together to redeem their inheritance; the family's lake home. Upon arriving, they find that the house is in terrible condition, and worse-yet, they’ll have to fix it themselves before they can sell it and receive their money. What follows is a series of hilarious mishaps and costly misadventures that ultimately help the two brothers rebuild their strained relationship as they attempt to restore the house in which they grew up. Directed by Todd Sklar, another MU alum now living in New York City, this movie was filmed entirely in Branson, Kansas City, and Columbia.

We are proud to have these films tell Missouri stories.
-Katie Steele Danner

Production News

We are looking for an empty or partially empty hospital or ideally, a psychiatric hospital that has a wing or wings that could be used for 4 weeks of filming without disrupting normal hospital operations. Other similar locations that could work well to double for a hospital would be a boarding school, dorm or other communal living institutional facility. If you know of a place fitting this description, please e-mail andrea.sporcic@ded.mo.gov.

Did you see the Anheuser-Busch InBev Clydesdale super bowl ad, “Brotherhood?” It won the top spot from USA Today. The ad was directed by Jake Scott, son of Ridley Scott (Gladiator, Alien.) It was partially shot at the Warm Springs Ranch in Boonville, home of the world famous Budweiser Clydesdales. And, that Chicago skyline - it was actually Kansas City.

The Travel Channel was in St. Louis for the show “Bizarre Foods”...The Sportsman Channel shot on the Current and Gasconade rivers ... an indie feature is shooting in Springfield...The Discovery Channel will be shooting in Branson...The SyFy Channel will be in the Kansas City Area.
The Missouri Motion Media Association (MOMMA) is holding a St. Louis meet-up at 6 pm on Feb. 28th at the Centene Center for Arts & Education (3547 Olive St.) for MOMMA members in the St. Louis area, and all members of the Motion Media Industry to attend.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema Kansas City wants you to dream up your ULTIMATE MOVIE PARTY idea and they will make it happen. It's YOUR ULTIMATE MOVIE PARTY - that means YOU choose all the elements: What's on screen, the food, the drink, the props and all the other special nuances -- everything. The events team at the Alamo will do everything to facilitate your cinematic whims. Five finalists and one Grand Prize will be chosen. The Grand Prize winner will get their party thrown for free and can invite up to fifty of their close personal friends to attend! See the ULTIMATE PARTY TAB on Facebook for rules, details, and to submit your idea. Submission Deadline is Feb. 28.

Congratulations to Kim Swanson on her membership to The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and to Anthony Cabral on his acceptance into the Director’s Guild of America as 1st AD. Find them both in our crew and support service companies database. Are you listed? Register now.

Coolfire Originals, a St. Louis-based production studio, has acquired Los Angeles-based Wild Eyes Productions and will bring Coolfire to Los Angeles with a studio named Coolfire West. Coolfire Originals was formed in 2010 to develop original entertainment for screens of all shapes, sizes and bandwidths. The company has produced several original, unscripted tv shows, including "Fast 'n Loud," "Welcome to Sweetie Pies," and "Mom Friends Forever." The company strives to tap into Midwestern ideas, characters and locations to deliver unique concepts. "As Coolfire Originals has continued its strong growth in the St. Louis area, we’ve always looked to having a presence on the West Coast in the hub of the entertainment industry," said Jeff Keane, founder and CEO.

The Columbia-shot, home-invasion feature film You’re Next will be on screens nation-wide on Aug. 23.

Headlines

New ‘Survivor’ offers Hope - Jefferson City native and former Miss Missouri joins the cast of “Survivor.”

Filmmaker returns home to produce latest project – Robert Altman Emerging Filmmakers Fund winner shoots in Liberty

Warm community welcome impresses MTV producers – MTV show, “Made” shoots in Springfield.

St. Louis Comic Writer’s Series To Become Movie

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

“Brotherhood” ad, Sportsman Channel shoot, Coolfire’s Jeff Keane, You’re Next movie image, former Miss Missouri Hope Driskill, MTV show “Made”
From its founding in 1827 to its current ranking as the fourth-largest city in Missouri, Independence has played an important and sometimes pivotal role in American history.

As the hometown of Harry S. Truman, you can tour the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, the Truman Farm and a Truman Walking Trail. Independence has 16 heritage sites to tour.

Experience history at any of the grandly restored Independence historic homes and mansions: The Truman House (1), Vaile Mansion (2), Noel House (3), Bingham-Waggoner Estate (4) and homes in historic neighborhoods (5) like those on Delaware Street (6 & 7).

Do you want to suggest a Location Spotlight? E-mail us at mofilm@ded.mo.gov.