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:

The Missouri Division of Tourism has launched our new advertising campaign that includes a robust media mix. With a new logo and tagline our creative campaign builds on Missouri’s moniker as “The Show-Me State.” “Enjoy the Show” is used in all marketing messaging, encouraging visitors to experience the wide variety of tourism assets our state offers. Throughout this process, we, and our creative team at Hoffman Lewis, our advertising agency of record, wanted to create a clean, colorful and charming graphic animation to play at the end of each ad. Rukus, a Missouri-based post-production facility was hired to create the 2D animation using the new logo and tagline. Here is a backstage look at this new creative that highlights Missouri’s beauty. Enjoy.

-Katie Steele Danner

Production News

A crew from the BBC was in Marceline filming for a series (pictured left) ... The Travel Channel’s show Ghost Adventures shot at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City (pictured right) ... Missouri native Jann Carl will be back home for an episode of her RFD-TV show Small Town, Big Deal ... a new cable reality show pilot shot for a few days in Kansas City, along with web commercials for Dell and Garden Weasel ... in St. Louis, a historic re-enactment was filmed for the Nazarene Church, and McDonald’s commercials were shot in the area.

See a sneak peak at the paranormal thriller Apparitional filmed at the Missouri State Penitentiary and around Jefferson City last winter. The film has some great footage of the prison and features Chris Wilson and Sheila Sanford with the Jefferson City Convention and Visitors Bureau discussing the history and paranormal activity at the prison.

Special thanks to retired gaffer David Basch from St. Louis for his help identifying the 1979 film shot in Fulton from an inquiry in last month’s newsletter. Not only did David give us information on the shoot, he also scanned the crew sheet and this newspaper image to be added to our archives. See his note below:

“The Price of Survival was a film shot by DNS-Filmproduktion of Muenchen, Germany, in June-July of 1979. This was a somewhat historic film for Missouri that has been forgotten because the Missouri Film Office didn’t start until 1983, as I remember. Also, the DP was the world-renown Walter Lassally who had won the last Academy Award given for b &w cinematography when he shot Zorba the Greek. Another interesting fact is that the actor who played “old Jim” in the movie was Ben Dova and was the person seen in news footage jumping out of the Hindenburg at the last second before it crashed in flames. In the Jefferson City Post-Tribune on June 26, 1979, there was a front page story about the film. In the picture, I’m the guy on the left holding on to the reflector board.”
Missouri News

Northwest Missouri State University interactive digital media students in Maryville screened short films, music videos and documentaries at the Main Street Film Fest on April 26. The interactive digital media degree is an interdisciplinary major with the Art, Computer Science/Information Systems and Mass Communication departments.

A special screening of 23 Minutes to Sunrise, filmed in the St. Louis area, was held in Jefferson City on April 7. Guest attendees pictured right: actors Dingani Beza, Jilanne Klaus, director Jay Kanzler, actor Tom Sandoval and producer Gayle Gallagher and producer/DP Chris Benson.

The independent feature film BEETHOPIA, filmed entirely in and around the St. Louis area, and directed by Darryl Barker, screened at the Buffalo-Niagara Film Festival on April 12.

St. Louis native, TV host/producer, and Cardinals super fan Andy Cohen will be in St. Louis on Friday May 10 for “Andy Cohen Night” at Busch Stadium. In 2010 he was named one of TV Guide’s “25 Most Influential People in Television.” Fans who buy tickets to see the game will even take home a little piece of nostalgia - a one-of-a-kind Andy Cohen Cardinals bobblehead. He will also be signing copies of his book, Most Talkative: Stories From the Front Lines of Pop Culture on May 11 at The Ethical Society of St. Louis on Clayton Road.

Do you know an 11-18 year old filmmaker? The 3rd National FilmFest 4-H is accepting entries for the August 4-7 event in Branson. FilmFest 4-H connects participants to professionals in the film industry and celebrates the work of the youth filmmakers. Workshops teach the professional practices and procedures, as well as explore ways that some of these practices can be accomplished on a teenager’s budget. Film submission deadline is July 1. Passes for the four day film festival are on sale now.

Headlines

Joplin tornado documentary to be on PBS

McDonald’s Commercial Shoot Surprises Drivers
“St. Louis ad agency Hoffman Lewis created the GoodMorningSTL campaign that features McDonald’s workers surprising morning commuters with an offer of breakfast as they waited for the train to pass.”

A Southeast Missouri filmmaker converted a St. Louis diner into a film set.

Rams part owner Rosenbloom to produce documentary on Missouri murder
“Rams part owner and vice chairman Chip Rosenbloom, an independent film producer, has a new movie project. Rosenbloom will produce an as yet untitled documentary on the 2005 murder trial of Ryan Ferguson. Ferguson was convicted for the 2001 murder of Kent Heitholt, the popular sports editor of the Columbia Daily Tribune.”

Horror movie ‘Apparitional’ filmed at the Missouri State Penitentiary, release set for June

Alabama’s Lucas Black gets back in uniform to play Pee Wee Reese in the Jackie Robinson movie ‘42’
“Missouri is home-Black now lives in Columbia, Mo., where he met his wife, Maggie, who was a student at the University of Missouri when he was in Columbia making the 2004 indie film ‘Killer Diller.’

Regional filmmakers prosper from tax breaks
A web series is a series of videos, generally in episodic form, released on the Internet or also by mobile or cellular phone, and part of the newly emerging medium called web television. -Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Check out these Missouri-made web series’ from across the state. With your support, they just might be the next big thing in the new digital/motion media original internet content wild wild west.

**Comic Geeks:** Written by and starring Cinema St. Louis’ Brian Spath, “Comic Geeks” shows just how humorous the world of comic book collecting, gaming and general geekiness can be. And with locations like Blueberry Hill and the Tivoli Theater featured prominently, Spath gives a clear shout-out to the Gateway City.

**Drifter: Broken Road:** Written and directed by Missouri State University graduate Jason Brasier, Drifter: Broken Road brings to the screen a dystopian universe, with a touch of the Old West. Drifter has already garnered high praise, snagging Best Writing and Best Directing (Brasier), Best Leading Actress (Vanessa Leinani) and Best Composer (Michael Brasier) at the 2013 LA Web Series Festival. While there are currently only six episodes, the website promises Drifter Series 2 will begin writing in August.

**The ZenKinky Chronicles:** In an example of turning lemons into lemonade, Columbia’s Meg Phillips has taken the trials and tribulations of online dating and turned it into a uniquely funny and honest web series, entitled “The ZenKinky Chronicles”. Embedded with personality, including numerous geek chic references and more than a dash of self-depreciating humor, “ZenKinky” takes Phillips’ book and brings it to life with enjoyable results.

**Kill ‘Em All:** The title pretty much tells you everything you need to know going into this web series, set in Kansas City and created by native son Jesse Pringle. This Mafia crime drama focuses on a main character, Carson McCullough whose family is killed by the “La Cosa Nostra”. When Carson vows to exact his revenge, it puts him on a crash course sure to bring plenty of action and violence.