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’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:

Today I read an article in the Wall Street Journal written by Director Christopher Nolan with thoughts on how technological advances will affect the future of cinema. I agree with most of his points. The changes to how we receive information have been so profound over the last decade, it only stands to reason that the way we watch films will provoke changes to the way films are created, with an opportunity to explore new methods with even further opportunity for new outcomes.

Meanwhile, back in Missouri, Fireball Run and Gone Girl enthusiasm is growing! Keep reading for more information on Season 8 of “The Most Epic Adventurally in America.”

Gone Girl, from director David Fincher (The Social Network, Benjamin Button) - the highly anticipated film shot partially in our own Cape Girardeau- has a second theatrical trailer out. The film, based on the bestselling novel written by Kansas City native Gillian Flynn (who also wrote the script) follows Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) after his wife (Rosamund Pike) goes missing on their fifth wedding anniversary. Soon the police and media begin to pressure him, questioning his involvement.

The new trailer, accompanied by a haunting score, beautifully features Cape Girardeau. In this new trailer we get to see a little more of the Dunne house, filmed in a local neighborhood; the candlelight vigil, filmed outside the Common Pleas Courthouse; the no-longer-fictional “The Bar,” located down the hill from the courthouse; and the police station, actually the Old Federal Building downtown. The trailer ends with a gorgeous shot of the riverfront and Mississippi River wall, with a barge slowly moving past. Gone Girl opens in theaters October 3, but you can see the locations before you see the movie when a new Gone Girl driving tour of major filming locations is launched by the Cape Girardeau CVB in the coming weeks. More details soon at VisitCape.com. Check out the trailer HERE.

-Katie Steele Danner

Production News

May: C-SPAN filmed for a week in St. Louis … Walmart shot commercials in southern Mo … an HGTV show shot in Innsbrook … Discovery Channel shot in Kansas City … a Travel Channel show shot in St. Louis … Ghost Hunters shot in St. Charles, Joplin and Carthage … Raw TV London filmed in St. Louis … ABC’s Wife Swap shot in Branson … Comedy Central show shot in St. Louis … production in Kansas City for LinkedIn and Garmin … Food Network shot in St. Louis … political commercials were filmed in Kansas City … Ghost Adventures shot in St. Louis … a Monsanto commercial shot in Kansas City and St. Louis … ABC’s Extreme Weight Loss filmed in St. Louis

June: PBS filmed in St. Louis … Pilgrim Studios filmed in Joplin and Carthage … documentary, The Champions, filmed around St. Louis … High Noon Entertainment shot in and around Branson … feature film, The Nameless, shot in St. Louis … National Geographic shot near Utica … part of the feature film Marshall the Miracle Dog shot in St. Louis … FoxSports show Ball Up shot in St. Louis … Kansas City production for Reece & Nichols and United Way … an indie horror film is shooting in Columbia … TV’s The Bachelor shot in St. Louis
Fireball Run is coming to Missouri. Season 8, Fireball Run: America’s Frontier will film across Missouri this Fall with featured stops in Pulaski County, Sedalia and Independence. In this adventure-travel competition web series, 40 driving teams, ranging from rodeo champions to astronauts, will travel across the Midwest, competing for bragging rights, a greater cause, and a plastic road sign. During the show, driving teams move from destination to destination to solve clues and accomplish tasks based on destination points-of-interest, history and culture. The public is encouraged to join the festivities across the state. The Fireball Run team is looking for crew wishing to join the entire expedition or simply work locally in Missouri. Positions available include interns/PAs and camera operators. Email your resume and cover letter to FBRjobs@gmail.com if interested and for more information.

Missouri made quite an impression on director Debra Granik. After earning four Academy Award nominations, including one for best picture for her work on Winter’s Bone, she has spent the past three years returning to the Ozarks to spend time with and film Ron Hall, a burley, Harley-riding Vietnam veteran in Reed Springs, for a new documentary film, Stray Dog. Granik first met Hall in a biker church while casting locals for Winter’s Bone and thought he’d be perfect to play the intimidating, bearded, leather-clad crime boss Thump Milton. As Granik spent time with Hall off-set, she began to see a different side to him. The film premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival and won the jury award for best documentary in June. See the trailer HERE.

The 14th St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase runs July 13-17. The showcase screens works written, directed, edited, or produced by St. Louis natives or films with strong local ties. Sixteen film programs will be shown ranging from full-length fiction features and documentaries to multi-film compilations of fiction and documentary shorts. A total of 94 films will screen. Highlights include: Elegy to Connie, a documentary using stop-motion animation to address the events leading up to and following the Kirkwood City Council shooting; The Battle of Island Mound, a film made with Missouri State Parks about the first battle fought by African-American Union soldiers during the Civil War; and A Portrait of St. Louis at 250 Years, an elegant and loving collective portrait of some of the people and places that make St. Louis unique. Get details at CinemaStlouis.org.

Branson director Michael Bartlett (The Zombie Diaries) has released a trailer for his Ozarks-shot film, Treehouse. Filled with haunting imagery filmed in Taneyville and Kirbyville, the dark, coming-of-age thriller focuses on missing teenagers and the strange shadows hunting them in the woods, where they find an isolated tree house. The film will have a US release in early 2015. See the trailer HERE. Haunting of Cellblock 11 (aka Apparitional) shot in Jefferson City in late 2012, is now available on VOD through Google Play, YouTube, Playstation and XBOX Live. The horror film co-stars the historic (and haunted?) Missouri State Penitentiary; decommissioned in 2004, it is now open for public tours. Check out the trailer.

The True/False Film Festival’s annual Boone Dawdle brings together some of the best things in life; biking, music, food, nature and film in Columbia on Aug. 16. The event is a music-and-surprise-filled bike ride along the MKT and Katy Trails, followed by a picnic, concert and screening of a new documentary, held under the stars atop the limestone bluff at Les Bourgeois Winery. Transportation for you and your bike back to Columbia will be provided. New this year are mini float trips, 20-minute round-trip boat rides on the Missouri River and a tour of the Big Muddy. You will see spectacular views of the limestone bluffs, eagles’ nests and prehistoric artwork. The float trip is limited to the first 100 who reserve seats. Tickets on sale now.

KC director, Bryce Young asked fellow filmmakers, "What would you do with your last day on Earth?" The answers first became the web series, Withered World and then a full feature film screening in Kansas City. Segments range from fantasy with “The Icarus 1,” about a boy who builds a rocket ship to escape the Earth; the drama “New Life,” which concerns a couple whose first baby is due on the last day; the thriller “Vindicate,” about a grieving father who confronts the one responsible for his tragedy; and the most-viewed segment, “Pop Tarts,” where a widower shares breakfast with the Son of God.
The Cave Restaurant & Resort

Hiding 20 minutes off I-44 in the backwoods of Richland, Missouri, The Cave Restaurant and Resort offers a unique dining location you won’t find anywhere else. Located inside a natural cave, the restaurant seats 225. The entrance to the cave is 100 feet up the side of the bluff which provides a beautiful panoramic view out onto the river below. The spacious cave includes two levels of dining which are accessible by stairs and elevator.

While the cave may be the main attraction, a small row of “old time” shops is located right outside. Surrounding the property is a river resort, complete with cabins available for rental. With some constructed as early as 1919, these cabins will immediately take you back in time. Each cabin is within view of the river and offers a secluded getaway in the wooded area.

If you would like more information and would like to scout these locations, please e-mail andrea.sporcic@ded.mo.gov

Headlines

ABC's Resurrection Actor Kevin Sizemore Visits Real Arcadia, Missouri for Season Finale

St. Louis film to screen at festival in Brazil

Springer spending summer in Missouri

Lee’s Summit man inspires movie with ‘Unlimited’ potential

Endowment established to fund film program at Missouri Southern State University

Locally produced movie, shot world wide - From London to Chicago to even Springfield, Missouri

St. Louis native set to host national entertainment show

Belle native releases first movie

Jackson students participate in statewide bus safety film shoot

St. Louis designer takes TV by storm — and stealth

“Hanna Ranch” to premiere at Galaxy 10 Cinema - Sedalian Mitch Dickman director/producer of film

Independent theater one of Columbia’s most beloved attractions

New Documentary Explores “White Flight” In Spanish Lake

Screenland Armour gives film a local flavor

Meet the movie that put St. Louis on the map

Fun little movie turns into Cannes trip - Kansas City filmmaker Joe Carey