

C-47 Houston

HOUSTON'S TELEVISION, VIDEO AND FILM MAGAZINE

SWAMP and TALA
To Host The 2008
Business of Film
Conference



PHOTOGRAPH BY: LAURA THORSTEN

Daytime EMMY Award Winner/Writer/Television Producer: **ROBIN CRAIG**

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F Troop

ABC sitcom 1965-1967

Theme "F Troop" by: Irving Taylor and William Lava



F-Troop premiered on American television on September 1965 and ran for only two seasons ending in early April 1967. This sitcom ran 65 thirty-minute episodes in b/w and later in color. Produced by William T. Orr and Hy Averback, F Troop was a comedy set at Ft. Courage, Kansas, a fictional U.S. Army outpost in the old west in 1865 right after the Civil War. The show surrounds the mishaps of the commanding officer of Ft. Courage, the gallant but chronically clumsy and accident-prone Captain Wilton Parmenter, played by **Ken Berry**. Much of the humor derives from the schemes of the non-commissioned officers Sergeant O'Rourke played by **Forrest Tucker**, his sidekick Corporal Agarn played by **Larry Storch** and Chief Wild Eagle, O'Rourke's business partner in the illegal O'Rourke Enterprises, played by **Frank Dekova**. F Troop was created by Seaman Jacobs, Ed James, Jim Barnett and Richard Bluel. The entire series was shot on the Warner Bros back lot. Production was pulled by new owners **Seven Arts** because the show was taking too much of the back lot and because of the added costs of producing the show in color during its 2nd season, even though this sitcom was one of the highest rated shows on television.

Lyrics to F Troop



The end of the Civil War was near, when quite accidentally, A hero who sneezed abruptly ceased Retreat and reversed it to victory. His medal of honor pleased and thrilled his proud little family group. While pinning it on some blood was spilled and so it was planned he'd command F Troop. Where Indian fights are colorful sights And nobody takes a lickin' Where pale face and redskin Both turn chicken. When killing and fighting get them down, They know their morale can't droop As long as they all relax in town Before they resume with a bang and a boom - F Troop.

Hear lyrics and see the opening of the show at:

<http://www.truveo.com/F-Troop-Theme-Song-SingAlong/id/561120048>. Enjoy! ###



Sales and Marketing

C-47 Houston is about Television, Video and Film in the Houston market. This magazine is distributed in the Greater Houston Metroplex area and, around the nation. Getting your message to our readers can be accomplished through a variety of ad space options that fit your financial budget.

There are two platforms you can purchase.

1. Your advertisement will be seen in print, in C-47 Houston and/or,
2. Your Banner Ad will be seen and linkable to your website at: www.C47Houston.com

To purchase ad space?

CONTACT us for an Advertisement Rate Sheet at:
Telephone: 281.795.2361 or,

E-mail your questions to: info@C47Houston.com or,
You can find our rate sheet at: www.C47Houston.com

Our goal is to bring our readers information about television, video and film and expose the readers to our vast industry with articles, news, happenings and interviews. Do you have NEWS? Send us a press release. Do you have an interest in writing? Let us know! Do you have an article or an interview that is related to television, video or film that you want published? Send it to us. You receive credit and you will be helping in this city's efforts to create an even bigger entertainment industry right here in Houston.

CONTACT us with your submission at:

Telephone: 281.795.2361

E-mail at: submit@C47Houston.com or,
visit us at: www.C47Houston.com

From the Publisher:

WELCOME and thank you for picking up this copy of **C-47 Houston**. Our goal is expose the reader to the City's television, video and film business. We will attempt to bring and showcase, to the readers of the greater Houston area, those businesses and people who have influenced the industry and may influence this industry in this great city.

Houston is the **fourth largest metropolitan city** in the United States. Ask any person whether they know about Houston's television, video or film makers and businesses and the answer you will receive is, "I didn't know we had one". Yet, this city has the potential to rival the west and east coast industry in terms of production, distribution, talent, land, facilities, investments and creation and development of television, video and film.

Our city contains every element that is needed for investors to build a solid and profitable entertainment industry. Compared to California and New York, the cost to create, build sets, construct, hire talent from a huge pool of diversity and cultures, contract for services and goods, and the use of private and public lands is quite affordable for any investor or filmmaker to create and turn ideas into reality. Setting the stones for a billion dollar entertainment industry capable of hiring ten of thousands of people, creating hundreds of businesses and entertaining millions of people is not an easy task. Bringing and maintaining the entertainment industry in Texas, and in Houston, can only be accomplished with your help.

Each month **C-47 Houston** will feature our industry leaders from the past and into the future. This magazine will present and explore issues that hopefully will enlighten and inform the reader that the television, video and film industry is a viable asset to this community, our city and our state.

C-47 Houston will also attempt to showcase our Indie filmmakers, our behind the camera crews, our investors, our producers, our directors, our sound engineers, our lighting directors, our location managers, our catering services, our set directors, our equipment providers, our film and video projects, our local talent, our success stories, our business developments, our technological achievements and our upcoming events and premieres.

This magazine is an open forum for the exchange of ideas. We hope that you will continue to pick-up future issues of **C-47 Houston** and support the conviction that Houston can and will have a major impact on the entertainment industry in the future.

H. Luna, Exec. Editor

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DTV.gov

THE DIGITAL TV
TRANSITION

What You Need To Know About DTV

You have less than 6 months to upgrade your television set to accept digital signals. If you are one of the millions of folks in the United States that refuse to subscribe to a satellite or cable service because commercial television should be free, you are going to have to upgrade your television set by purchasing a Digital-to-Analog Converter Box. You will only need this box if your television does not have a digital tuner AND you use an antenna to watch TV. The change from analog signals to digital signals is scheduled to take place February 17, 2009. The cost of a Converter box can range from \$50, of course, to \$100. A \$40 coupon is available that can help reduce the cost to you. But you will have to apply for a coupon and the sooner you apply, the better. The Government has decided, unilaterally, that the Digital system is best for Americans and that the analog system would better serve emergency and governmental departments. There are a variety of converter boxes you can purchase and some are better than others. Also, no special antenna is required. If you are receiving UHF channels on your existing television set from your antenna, then you do not need to purchase additional equipment. For more information about DTV and to apply for a \$40 Coupon visit: www.DTV.gov, the official site for this transition.



Houston

www.C47Houston.com

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Www.C47Houston.com now has a blog.

Tell us what you think about C-47 Houston! Get involved with TV and Film!

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Unsolicited articles and submissions must be accompanied by contact information in the form of phone number or email address. Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged, but may be edited due to space limitations and scope of content. Press releases and News releases are welcome and must be received by the 25th of each month to be considered in the next month's issue. Send your submissions to: **submit@C48Houston.com**

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The Fifth Annual A/V Swap Houston

By: J. Lorenzo

Filmmakers and Music Composers came together, in July, to “swap” their talents in the **5th Annual 2008 A/V Swap – Houston**. You can read about the kickoff of the A/V Swap in our August issue of **C-47 Houston**. During **phase one** of the “swap” participants kicked-off the start of the Swap by submitting their original works to **Ms. Michelle Hempton**, (left) the Curator, Director and Founder of this lucrative organization. Film and music pieces were dropped off at the Antidote Café in the Heights. Original film works that were submitted to the A/V Swap were to be made without a music track and original composed music that were submitted, were to be submitted without visuals attached to the music. After the drop-off of selected pieces, and leading up to **phase two** of the “swap”, both participants returned to retrieve a random piece of work. Filmmakers randomly picked an original work of music and Music Composers randomly picked an original work of film from, literally, a box. The participants then had three weeks to create



their works of art. The filmmakers were to create an entirely new film with the original composed music and Composers were to score an entirely new original piece of music to a silent film to make a variation on the art form. During **phase three** of the A/V Swap, on August 10th of last month, the participants turned-in their completed projects to the A/V Swap headquarters at the **Antidote Café** in the Heights to mark the end of this intense time-retrained project of creating new works of art and film.

If you missed it, the stylish Michelle Hempton threw a fundraiser, August 13th, to support this years A/V Swap screenings. The **A/V Swap Happy Hour Fundraiser** collected tips at the River Oaks Theater Lounge, upstairs at the movie theater. **C-47 Houston** was there to support them and donated to the cause. The fundraiser collected a couple of hundred dollars in donations. As an incentive to attend the fundraiser, a years worth of movie tickets to the River Oaks Theater was given away in a raffle. This year’s raffle winner went to **Ms. Becka Satterwhit**. Congratulations! And, please invite me to a movie! LOL!



The screening of the A/V Swap’s latest Edition of the 2008 films took place at the **Angelika Theater – Houston**, Thursday, August 21st. Supporters, filmmakers, actors, Music Composer and artists of all kinds gathered in the lobby of the Angelika Theater in what was a **who’s who** of filmmaking and music making to see and be seen and to view the artistic results of this “Swap”. 30 short films were collected and screened from both Houston and the **New York Chapter** of the “Swap” were seen. According to Ms. Hempton, (left) who was formally dressed for this event, this is not a competition but an



exercise in creativity. This “swap” brings together artists from film and music. The collaboration is an attempt to expose the other to a creative level in an artistic way, giving both a taste of something they would not ordinarily do. There are no winners or losers in this “Swap”. In fact, every participant is a winner. Donations were accepted at the screening and a DVD of all the movies was available for purchase at the A/V Swap reception table in the theater. An encore screening of the 2008 A/V Swap films were shown later that night at the **River Oaks Theater** where fans gathered by the scores for the midnight screening. It was a fun time for all and a very remarkable Experiment in Collaboration! Congratulations are in order for Ms. Hempton! Next years A/V Swap 2009 should be better and bigger. Get your cameras ready and get your music composed. If you would like to purchase a DVD of the 2008 A/V Swap short films or for more information contact: Michelle Hempton at Michelle@TheAVSwap.com or visit: TheAVSwap.com. ###

gious and a variety of other issues. Proceeds from this years festival will go to the **SHOCK Arts Youth and Wellness Program** whose mission is to provide arts awareness, education and training to low income children, to provide a platform for children to showcase and cultivate their artistic gifts and to provide a positive alternative to the negativity in their environment. Hundreds of film buffs came to screen the films that included over 60 World Premieres, 2 U.S. Premieres and 1 North American Premiere. The BCIFF also provided workshops and seminars related to the film industry and it was a chance to meet and learn from some of Houston’s best professionals in the Field of Television and Film. **The Closing Night Awards Show** Saturday August 9th marked the end of screenings and the presentation of awards to the various entered films. The ceremony was held at the... (Continued on page six)

The
1st Annual



2008

Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival

By: J. Lorenzo



Ms. Shanda Davis, (left), the Founder, Executive Director and organizer of the **1st Annual 2008 Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival**, and a Filmmaker in her own right, did an exceptional job bringing this festival to light right here in Houston. If you missed this event, you missed out on watching

films, literally, from around the world. Over a hundred people gathered at the **Harvest Time Church Community Center** at Greenspoint to attend the opening gala and kickoff of the festival. Ms. Davis presided over the opening ceremony with introductions and thanks. She then turned things over to the MC for the festival “**Blain the Comic**” (right) who entertained the audience with his humorous take on life and comic situations. The Extravaganza presented several music artists and a chance to bump elbows with our future filmmakers, producers, directors and actors who attended the opening kick-off. Over one hundred and fifty films were entered for consideration in this years’ **BCIFF**. Produced by the **PROGRESSIVE Art Group, Inc.**, a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and create opportunities through the arts, **The Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival** showcased diverse films and video projects that display positive relationships, morals, individual and family issues, offers hope and encouragement toward the betterment of society, and to educate and enlighten us on political, social, psychological, economic, health, reli-



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CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

TO HAVE YOUR CLUB, ASSOCIATION OR ORGANIZATION LISTED AND PUBLISHED, SEND YOUR LISTING IN THE FORMAT SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU SEE BELOW TO:

CAO@C47HOUSTON.COM BY THE 23RD OF EACH MONTH.

The Houston Film Commission:

www.houstonfilmcommission.com

As a division of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, (the primary sales and marketing arm for the City of Houston and Harris County with a mission to improve the economy of Greater Houston), the Houston Film Commission promotes Houston, Harris County and the Eastern Gulf Coast region of Texas as a destination for film production. The HFC offers professional location services to film, video and print industries. The Houston Film Commission can assist you in finding accommodations, support services and crew, as well as act as a liaison with City, County and State agencies. The HFC can help secure local cast and crew by posting your project needs on their Production Hotline, a free online service. Additionally, the Houston Film Commission sponsors the Texas Filmmaker's Showcase, an annual competition for the best of Texas short films. HFC also hosts monthly screenings of past films from the Texas Filmmaker's Showcase. Screenings are viewed at Dean's Credit Clothing (316 Main St.) every first Thursday of the month starting at 9PM. Admission is always free.

Membership: None

The Texas Motion Picture Alliance:

www.txmpa.org

The TXMPA is a nonprofit trade organization founded in Austin in June 2006 to become the advocate for the film, video, interactive, and digital media production industries in the Lone Star State. The Alliance is committed to building a strong community of industry professionals and to support legislation that benefits our industry. The TXMPA also is committed to educating the general public about our businesses and how we impact their lives through the hundreds of millions of dollars our productions pump into the economy. Houston Region Representative is Cynthia Neely (cyneely@aol.com) and Sharon Murphy (sharon@pbtalent.com) Board Member At Large. Become a member and subscribe to the TXMPA newsletter for meeting and event schedules. For further information about the statewide organization visit www.txmpa.org.

Membership: Membership & Dues

The Documentary Alliance:

www.documentaryalliance.org

www.realfilms.org

The DA is a Houston-based nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating the cultural amnesia that is robbing Americans of the valuable lessons of the past. Primary to its mission the Documentary Alliance produces documentary films that air on PBS and educational cable networks. Programs are then distributed to schools on VHS and/or DVD accompanied by a teacher's guide that offers suggestions for integrating their educational content into classroom curriculum. The most important goals of the Documentary Alliance is partnering with other nonprofit organizations whose missions can benefit from its programming. Documentary Alliance sponsors an educational community outreach program and monthly documentary film series in Houston called Real Films. Real Films screens important, yet seldom seen, nonfiction films to promote awareness, appreciation, and future production for this essential educational medium. Each screening features the filmmaker(s) in attendance with an opportunity for a Q and A session. Currently, the series is held at The Aurora Theater (800 Aurora St.). For more information, buy tickets, or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, go to the RealFilms website at realfilms.org.

Membership: None

The Houston Film Organization

www.houstonfilm.org

<http://filmind.meetup.com/254>

Houston Film is a media arts based organization committed to the art of film and video production and filmmaking in the Houston area. HF was designed for a new generation of filmmakers, screenwriters, actors, producers and animators who share a passion for motion pictures and want to learn by making their own projects in a hands-on environment with the support and guidance of experienced industry practitioners. With over 500 members, Houston Film brings together people in all aspects of making movie and film content. The Houston film Industry Meetup Group, Houston Films' online collaboration to bring folks together with schedules and meeting, was started to encourage continued growth and learning in film planning, editing, and production. The best way to get started is to get involved. Houston Film is currently producing a film and has others on the planning board. Come get involved with the Houston Film organization and practice the art of filmmaking. To find schedules go to www.houstonfilm.org.

Membership: Free

The Southwest Alternate Media Project

www.swamp.org

SWAMP is a non-profit media arts center that promotes the creation and appreciation of film, video and new media as an ART form. The Southwest Alternate Media Project provides such programs and services to the community as; The Territory, a statewide PBS Broadcast series featuring Indie short films and video; Workshops, a series of courses for the emerging and developing filmmaker; The Media Literacy Institute, that provides educational training workshops and seminars; Sponsored Projects, which serves as a nonprofit fiscal sponsor to selected Indie film/video production; The Summer Teen Digital Video Camp, an intensive week-long teen camp with classes that cover elements of screenwriting, digital production and post production; The Media Artist Residencies, where artists teach the art of film/video production and media literacy skills to adults and children; And, A Monthly Salon, (the last Tuesday night of every month) a networking opportunity for media professionals, students and members. Becoming a member of SWAMP helps to support film/video artists and educators by providing opportunities for exhibition, education and information.

Membership: Annual Dues

The IndieClub - Houston

www.indieclub.com

The IndieClub is a web-based networking organization, established in 1998, that offers folks the opportunity to meet, network and collaborate with other filmmaker's, actors and crew locally and nationally. IndieClub.com partners with filmmakers as well as one-time events and film festivals to offer IndieClub members additional benefits and helps to promote the entire Indie filmmaking community. Houston's local IndieClub Group Director, Phillip Furgason, has brought together some of the top and respected Texas film industry tradesmen and women for an intimate and insightful roundtable discussion every month for members and folks that are interested in film in the Houston area. Meetings are held at 7PM. Sign up with IndieClub.com for meeting times, dates, and calendar. Meet the people who make films! Talk and ask questions on a one-on-one bases with industry leaders over coffee and in a relaxed environment. Meeting places vary. Email Phil Furgason for information and location for the next meeting at: 3rdCoast@swbell.net

Membership: Free

The Houston Filmmakers Organization

www.odysseepictures.com/hfo

The Houston Filmmakers Organization is a non-profit independent film organization that strives to connect writers, directors, actors, musicians, and other video/film industry professionals in the Houston area for the purpose of networking and sharing knowledge and experience. HFO believes that the first step in attracting studios to "Film Texas" is to have a rich and healthy culture of Texas Film. There may be a lot more filmmaking going on in Houston than you realize, so join our Yahoo Group and help the community grow even more. The Houston Filmmakers Organization sponsors an industry mixer every first Monday of each month at 7PM. Admission is FREE, and features include Indie screenings, panels, and film documentaries. Mixers are held at The G.R.A.B. Game Room and Bar (located at 809 Pierce). Come down and get involved!

Membership: Free

Aurora Picture Show

www.aurorapictureshow.org

Aurora Picture Show is a non-profit art center and microcinema for film, video and new media housed in a renovated 1924 church building located at 800 Aurora Street. Aurora supports visual media artists through promotion, exhibition, opportunities and artist fees. Aurora Picture Show presents over 50 screening programs per year and frequently commissions' original screenings curated by artists, writers and critics that consist of short films and videos. APS also has over 800 non-circulating DVD's of artist-made film and video housed in The Aurora Video Library located at 1524 Sul Ross. The DVD's can be viewed by appointment in private viewing rooms that can accommodate 1 to up to 20 viewers at no charge. Go to the website to more information about upcoming film and video screenings. Tickets are always \$6 with the exception of special events.

Membership: Annual Fee for Benefits

National Association of Latino Independent Producers - Houston Chapter (NALIP)

www.nalip.org (go to chapters)

The NALIP is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to promoting the advancement, development and funding of Latino Films and Media arts in all genres. The National Association of Latino Independent Producers - Houston Chapter provides ongoing support for the Latino independent film and video makers. The Houston Chapter is constantly building relationships with professionals and executives at all levels of the industry in both commercial and non-commercial areas developing and playing an interactive roll in new media, television, film, documentary and experimental video. For more information go to the website. For information about meetings and meeting locations in the Houston area call Jesus Medel at 713.225.1935 or contact by email at chano6_@hotmail.com.

Membership: Annual Dues

Women in Film & Television - Houston

www.wift-houston.org

WIFT is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to helping women reach the highest level of achievement in television, film, and other moving-image media, and promoting equality for women in these industries. Houston's WIFT brings together professionals, men and women, who work in all areas of the entertainment industry. A network of over 40 chapters with over 10,000 members worldwide, WIFT promotes, educates, and pursues equitable treatment and opportunities for professional women, students and those aspiring to work in the industry. The Houston Chapter of WIFT, active for more than 12 years, has grown to include over 200 women, men, college students, and corporate members. Women in Film and Television has had a huge impact on the industry in Houston; it produces over 12 innovative programs and special events annually. It is an advocate not only for women, but for an overall industry environment, posting job openings and industry news, hosting film screenings, providing networking opportunities, scholarships, and grants. Men are welcome and encouraged to join. Houston Chapter events are open to all. For more information and a schedule of upcoming events go to the website or call: 713.788.8075.

Membership: Annual Dues

The PROGRESS Arts Group Inc. - Houston

www.bciff.com

The PROGRESS Arts Group Inc. is a non-profit arts organization. The acronym PROGRESS stands for People Rendering Out God's Resources to Evangelize and Save Souls through the Arts. Founded in 2004, by Shanda Davis, the mission is to Educate, Evangelize and Create Opportunities through the Arts. The group strives to fulfill its mission through their SHOCK Arts Children & Youth Arts and Wellness Program which provides arts awareness, education, training, scholarships and opportunities to low income children and youth in the Houston area. PROGRESS Arts Group Inc., also partners with its sister organization, SDH Productions, to produce inspirational and positive films, TV shows and the Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival. For more information visit: www.bciff.com or www.sdhproductionsco.com.

Email at: shanda@bciff.com or shanda@sdhproductionsco.com.

Or call 281.204.7219

Membership: Free

The Houston Film Critics Society

www.houstonfilmcritics.com

Founded in 2007, the Houston Film Critics Society is a non-profit, unincorporated voluntary organization of print, broadcast and internet film critics based in the Greater Houston metropolitan area that meet its membership criteria. The HFCS has a purpose of encouraging the publication and broadcasting of substantive critical commentary on film and cooperation among those regularly engaged in film criticism in the region. They strive to increase public awareness and appreciation of cinematic excellence. They recognize extraordinary accomplishments in film through the selection of annual recipients of the **Houston Film Critics Award** and they honor both current and former distinguished members of the Association and their contributions to the overall mission of the HFCS. The Association can help to organize and coordinate the local area film critics community. For more information about the HFCS visit the website.

Membership: Annual Dues

The Houston Association of Entertainment Professionals (HAEP)

www.houstonaep.org

The Houston Association of Entertainment Professionals is a non-profit, exclusive, applicant-based membership organization. The goal of HAEP is to create a community among Houston's multi-talented entertainment professionals. Memberships are open only to local workers in the fields of makeup, hair, and fashion stylists, lighting and sound techs, choreographers, fashion designers and stylists, graphic designers and producers and directors (of different genres). The HAEP provides a source for local and national potential employers to seek out the most qualified professionals to give their projects a more successful outcome. The ultimate purpose of the HAEP is to create a network of credible, accountable and organized industry professionals who desire to work with persons possessing the same measure of integrity, talent and passion. The Houston Association of Entertainment Professionals helps to build the groundwork for success through various projects, events and educational involvements. For information and membership applications visit the website, email HAEP at info@houstonaep.com or contact HAEP Director R. Gordon at 281.844.8921

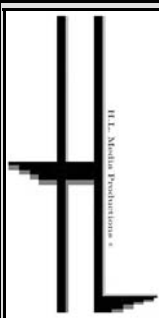
Membership: Flat Fee and Annual Dues

BOOTOWN - BooTown Theatre

www.myspace.com/bootowntheatre

BooTown is a non-profit theatre group that is in its second season. This organization is dedicated to creating ensemble theatre with no pretensions. BooTown provides a fun theatre experience for all involved, from artist to audience. It is committed to supporting the arts, in Houston, and providing additional outlets for Houston Artists, thereby making the arts more accessible in the city that supports us. This organization reaches beyond personal talents and skills to continually challenge the participants at new levels. They encourage the creation of new works and emphasize the universal qualities of old works. BooTown provides awesome, quirky theatrical events and good times all around. All are welcome to join. BooTown features at least one show per month. You can get an email current events and activities, and never miss a thing, by subscribing to BooTown's email list at: bootown@gmail.com or if you are a MySpace friend at: www.myspace.com/bootowntheatre. You can also reach this group by contacting Emily Hynds at 832.541.2861. This organization also produces the Houston Fringe Festival. You can visit www.houstonfringefestival.org for more information. For more information about BooTown contact the co-artistic directors Ms. Hynds or Ms. Gomez at: BooTown@gmail.com.

Membership: Free



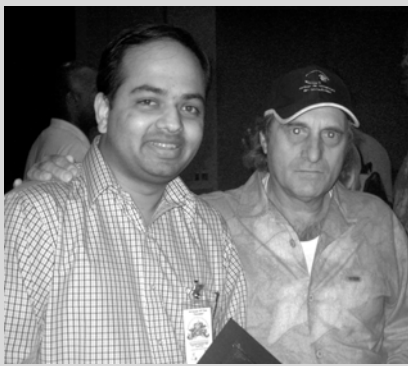
BY THE WAY: A SPECIAL thanks go to the management of the following establishments for their support and vision in providing a venue to distribute this magazine to the public: 58 locations and counting!

The House of Pies (Kirby), The River Oaks Theater, The Epicure Café (W. Gray), Inversions Coffee House (Montrose), Brazil (Dunlavy @ Westheimer), The Agora Café (Westheimer), Salento's Café (Rice Blvd.), The Tasting Room (Uptown Park), Copy.Com (Westheimer), Baba Yega Restaurant (Grant St.), Movies, the Store: DVD & VHS Rentals (Richmond), KHOU-TV 11, The University of Houston (Satellite), Antidote Café (Studewood) All the Doctor and Lawyer

offices that let us place a magazine in their lobby. Thanks for the help! Let's Bring it to Houston and TEXAS! Get Involved with TV and Film!

(BCIFF Con't from page 3) ...luxurious Sheraton-North Houston Hotel near the George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Ms. Shanda Davis again presided

over the opening ceremony and thanked everyone for his or her generous support and help. Ms. Davis then turned over the awards presentation to hosts "Blain the Comic" and Houston Actress and volunteer Ms. Jennifer Joseph. (Pictured below) To kick-off the closing night ceremony several music artists entertained the audience with standup and inspirational sounds. Ms. Davis got to podium and presented Ms. Darian Ward with the honored **BCIFF 2008 Inspirational Excellence Trailblazer Award** for her outstanding achievements, contributions and



endless efforts to make a difference in television, film and the entertainment industry and in the making a difference in the lives in children in need. A standing ovation was given to Ms. Shanda Davis who closed this years Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival. Ms. Davis has worked tirelessly to introduce a new film festival to the City of Houston. Currently, the BCIFF is getting national recognition as a result of some of the films that have been nominated and/or have won in competition. Ms.



Davis is already making plans for the **2009 Edition of The Bayou City Inspirational Film Festival**. Filmmakers will be able to enter their works starting in November of 2008. And, sponsorship packages are available online. Your participation and donations are always welcome. If you would like to see the list of entry winners for this years BCIFF visit www.BCIFF.com or you can go to C47Houston.com where we have the list available, as well. We were proud to be a sponsor in this edition of the BCIFF and we hope that everyone will get involved to make this a Houston tradition. ###

Congratulations to Ms. Shanda Davis!

This is another "Made in Texas" filmmaker and Film Festival.



Manhattan short Film Festival



As part of their Premieres and Revivals Film Series, the Museum of Fine Arts - Houston Film (MFAH-Film) is hosting part of the **11th Annual 2008 Manhattan Short Film Festival**. The Festival's mission is to Unite audiences around the world via the most creative short films in the World. This festival is held simultaneously throughout the week of September 21 to September 28, 2008 across Europe, North, South and Central America and Australia. Here in Houston The Manhattan Short Film Festival is being held at the **Museum of Fine Arts - Houston, September 23rd** starting at 7PM. The Film Curator, Ms. **Marian Luntz** has received notice that Houston audiences will be able to participate in the voting process and determine their favorite films. Tickets are available! For more information, tickets, times and the list of films to be screened visit: MFAH.org/Film or call 713.639.7300 or email them your questions to Film@MFAH.org. ###



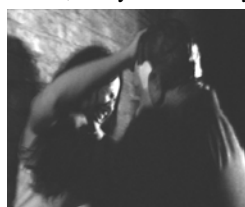
Horror independent filmmaker and Director **Todd Jason Cook** is shooting his film "Zombiefied". This 90-100 minute High Def film promises to be the most bizarre, twisted, action-packed original zombie film made by **Screamtime Films** production company. Based in the Houston area, shooting will take place in Houston, Sugarland and surrounding areas and scheduled to continue through November of 2008.

"Zombiefied" is a horror story about a mysterious killer, played by **Tayvis Dunnahoe**, who turns people into zombie using an indecipherable curse



recorded as an MP3. During a music concert, this mysterious killer mixes the curse through the PA system creating a club full of zombies. The lead character, "Alana" played by

Rebecca Torrellas who gets caught in the middle of the zombie outbreak and is the lead singer in the band, comes face to face with the killer. She escapes the killer and finds out his secret. "Tony", played by **Todd Jason Cook**, and the guitarist of the band, comes up with a plan to stop the zombies with the help of "Tommy", played by **Mike Gebbie**, an introvert who had faced the zombies over 10 years earlier. The killer uploads the curse mixed in with a song entitled "Zombiefied" to the internet to create a global situation. Now it's up to Alana, Tony and Tommy to figure out how to stop

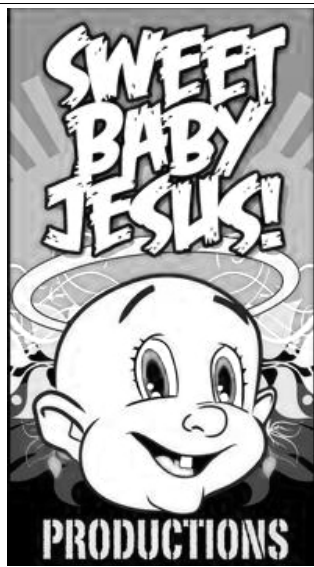


the zombies. And, **Joe Grisaffi**, who plays "Josh" a computer geek who helps with the research on the serial killer.



Mr. Todd Jason Cook is the writer, producer, director and editor of this indie horror film. He also plays the part of "Tony". Mr. Cook hopes to take "Zombiefied" to post-production sometime in early 2009. Editing to be done in Premiere Pro. Among Todd's directorial and script writing works include, "Death Metal Zombie", "Demon Dolls" and "Evil Night". Todd Jason Cook hails from Missouri City, Texas just southwest of Houston. He has produced over a dozen feature horror films from 1992 through 1998 in around the Houston Metroplex area. According to Mr. Cook, this "new film has a completely different approach from the films I used to do. It will be intense, wicked, full of action and very entertaining." For more information about Screamtime Films visit their website at www.ScreamtimeFilms.com. ### This is a "Made in Texas" Film.





Houston Filmmakers Talk About New Short Film: “Rushin”

By: John Avery

Often, when we think that a film has been made, and, is “in the can”, it is done and that is all there is to the production of this venture. However, that is not the case, in this age of film and DVD’s. When a film is completed, it still has to be marketed and presented to the public. One of the marketing tools some filmmakers will use, in adding another dimension to their completed works, is the addition of the Director/Producer commentary that goes along with the film. Some filmmakers will also add the commentary of one or more groups of actors. Others will add the commentary of the crew who helped to create their film and giving the serious viewer an insight into the actual making of a film. These commentaries will often explain technical problems with solutions, or filmmaking problems associated with blocking or staging, cameras, lighting, sound and perhaps, various factoids about the film and what it takes to make a film. These are some of the issues they may be talked about in the commentaries and most often these commentaries will follow the entire length of the film from beginning to end.

C-47 Houston learned that one of our Houston area filmmakers was creating a commentary for his short film “Rushin” and creating the Directors cut of the film. We invited **Director Mr. Jason Clemons** (pictured on the right) and the films’ **Producer Mr. Mike Darling** (pictured below) to join us for a quick cup of coffee and to talk about his film venture. If you recall in our July issue of C-47 Houston, “Rushin” and the team of **Sweet Baby Jesus Productions** captured the “Best Film of Houston” award at the 48 Hours Film Project – Houston’s edition of the competition back in June of this year.



This 8 minute short film took less than 48 hours to make. C-47 Houston was there at the screening of this film and found the films quality and storyline to be an exceptionally well-done production. Shot with a Panasonic HVX200 and edited with FinalCut Pro, one would think they were watching a film produced by a major studio.

C-47 Houston asked Jason and Mike about their film, the commentary and some insight into what they were doing. We are happy to introduce both Director/Screenwriter **Mr. Jason Clemons** and Producer/Investor **Mr. Mike Darling**:



C-47: Thank you Jason and Mike for talking with us. Give us a quick story line of the film.

Mr. Clemons: Well, we picked a spy genre at the 48 Hour Film Project. The story is about a guy named Frank Gilroy, played by Adam Mayfield, who is going to work at a restaurant called Knickerbees. He goes to the bus

stop and the bus is late. As he is waiting, a spy, played by Marcus Pruitt, who has been shot sits next to him and whispers something in Frank’s ear and dies.

Mr. Darling: Before he knows it, he is being kidnapped and tortured. And, it’s hilarious. One of the bad guys starts making fun of this country and the president and then makes fun of Knickerbees “Where the Gravy is always Warm”, his work place, and he get angry and kills everyone and escapes. Then we jump to Frank explaining to his boss, the Knickerbees manager played by Kent Ohler, why he is two hours late.

C-47: Was “Rushin” a “on-the-fly” type of film or was there time to write up a script?

Mr. Clemons: Well, we had a couple of ideas before we got to the 48...

...Hours competition and picked a genre. But, since the genre you pick is random, we had to be pretty loose about the storyline. This particular script was written by Mike, Juan Lopez and myself. We basically sat down and brainstormed our ideas. This time around we did it pretty fast compared to the first time we submitted a film. The first time it took us most of one day to come up with a story. This time it only took us about an hour, maybe an hour and a half. This one was real lean. Once we had the basic idea and what we were going to do, Mike immediately went into his producing mode and Juan and I went to the office and started writing. We had the completed script ready to go about mid-night. Not too bad!

C-47: You did an incredible job on the film, are you happy about the results?

Mr. Darling: Oh! Definitely! We are very proud of what we did in a 48-hour time frame. When I go back and watch the film and saw all the other competitors on u-Tube or the trailers on their websites, I could pat myself on the back and feel good that we did a fantastic job and we had an incredible team. And, that is what it really comes down to; a team of dedicated filmmakers!



Adam Mayfield and Marcus Pruitt

C-47: Is this your first attempt at the 48 Hour Film Project?

Mr. Darling: No, this is our fourth year. This time and this year we were on a mission to get this film done and submitted. Last year we didn’t get the film in on time. We felt we had a really good film, but it kills me inside to think about it and to think about how we just let everyone down. So this time around we were on a mission to get this film done and submitted on time.

Mr. Clemons: And, we did it!

C-47: Has the film been entered into the National part of the 48 Hour Film Project?

Mr. Clemons: Yes it has, but the competition is still going on in some cities. So the 48 Hour Film Project is not really over. It is over in Houston, but its still going on. I think they will be judging sometime early next year when all the winners of the various cities are in and accounted for.

C-47: Any plans to enter this film into other film festival?

Mr. Clemons: Of course! But we are still polishing this film. We would like to enter this film to some of our Texas festivals first, just to get our feet wet and then figure out where to go from there.

Mr. Darling: But, here’s the glitch; if and when we enter this film we would be going up against filmmakers who have worked on their scripts for a year or more, perhaps have a budget, rehearsed their actors and spent some money on their projects. We made our film in less than 48-hours. We didn’t have the luxury of time. Although, we are pretty proud of this film and proud that it was good enough to win the Houston edition of the 48 Hour Film Project, when it comes to apples and apples, it’s not on the same par.



Caroline Parker as “Natasha”

C-47: What made you decided to produce the commentary part of the film?

Mr. Clemons: We just wanted to do a DVD to give to everybody that wanted one. And, we had plenty of extra space on the DVD. So we basically decided to fill it up with production still pictures and then we got the idea to ask our team to come in,

watch the film and do a commentary. The commentary gives some insight into the film.

Mr. Darling: Yeah, and because the 48 Hour Project was so fast and furious, we really couldn’t just sit down and talk about a shot or a scene that we did. It happened so quickly and fast that I thought it would be interesting to get everyone back together, let them watch the movie and just get their thoughts and to see what they were doing to see if they had a clue of what we were filming at the time. I told Jason that this is our fourth year and I actually only understand about half of what is going on. The other half, I look at the script and I don’t that kind of “eye” where I can visualize the bigger picture or how we were going to make a particular scene work. So, I thought it would be really cool to get everyone else involved and just have them talk about the filmmaking process or what they were thinking at the time.

C-47: How long did it talk to do the commentaries?

Mr. Clemons: Well we got most everybody in a one Saturday and knocked out about four or five different commentaries. We did a Producer/Director commentary; we did a Producer only commentary... (Cont’d on page 11)

COVER ARTICLE: DAYTIME EMMY WINNER MS. ROBIN CRAIG WRITER/MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER TELEVISION PRODUCER

By: John Lorenzo



C-47 Houston is on a quest to showcase our city's talent. They come in all shapes and sizes. There are independent filmmakers, actors, producers, cinematographers, editors, gaffers, grips and the list goes on and on. Recently, a Houston produced Television court show was awarded an Emmy for an episode that pitted animal rights and gun control activists with those who consider the safety of their family against pets that have a reputation of vicious attacks and the right to do something about it as a fundamental right. Local Coordinating Producer, **Ms. Robin Craig** and her team of talented producers produced the episode and were bestowed the **35th Annual 2008 Daytime Entertainment Emmy Award** for the "Requiem for a Pit Bull" case which was shown on the second season of the daytime television court show "**Cristina's Court**". C-47 Houston caught up with Ms. Craig, who gave us some of her valuable time, and talked to her about her role, her views and an insight into her career. When we first met this wonderful person she was what you would think a producer of a national television show would look like. Robin is tall, attractive, talkative and intelligent with a voice that projects the meaning of her words. Ms. Craig is a native Houstonian and has that Texas draw in her speech. She is charming, polite and very strong in her convictions and her goals. She grew up in north Houston and graduated from Aldine Senior High School. Robin is always thinking about her job. Even while at lunch, one of the few times she was been out of the office, this producer was negotiating a booking for the show. She called soon after the lunch, to inform us that she was able to secure that booking that she had been working on for weeks. Ms. Craig is a stunning and outgoing woman who has an extensive resume filled with the requisites that make her one of the top television producers, not only in Houston but, in the country. Ms. Craig is on top of her game and knows exactly what it takes to get her job done. **We are extremely proud to present, Emmy Award Winner, Ms. Robin Craig:**

C-47: Congratulations on winning your Emmy, Robin! You are definitely the talk of the town.

Ms. Craig: *Thank you! I was pretty excited to win. The thing that makes me the most proud about winning this Emmy is that I did it while I was working here in Houston and on a Houston made production.*

C-47: Yeah, you are producing one of the very few national productions.

Ms. Craig: *That's right! There isn't a whole lot of television production in this city outside your local news. This is one of the first opportunities we have had to getting close to the caliber that rivals the productions occurring in L.A., New York and Chicago.*

C-47: Why is this particular Emmy significant?

Ms. Craig: *Well aside from winning an Emmy... LOL... In the past, court shows needed to be submitted under "Special Programming". Under this category the court shows would be up against something like the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade or maybe a reality TV show like "Survivor". It's a classic case of apples and oranges. It didn't make sense! How can you really compare TV court shows with reality TV shows? This is the first time that a TV court show has it's own category and it happened at the 35th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards 2008. This is the first year and an historical recognition of TV court shows in the new category of "Outstanding Legal/Courtroom Program". It has significant meaning in the court show genre. The feeling of people when finding out about this new category was that it was created for the courtroom show "Judge Judy" who has been in production some 12 years. We felt specifically honored to be up against some really established shows and personalities. The consensus was the courtroom show "Judge Judy" would be the winner. But, of course that wasn't the case.*

C-47: Take me through the process, you are the Coordinating Producer for "Cristina's Court"; are you the person responsible for bringing this case/episode to the viewers?

Ms. Craig: *Yes, I first introduced and produced the Emmy winning case.*

C-47: And, therefore, you are the person that would be credited with winning this Emmy for this particular case/episode? Would that be a fair statement?

Ms. Craig: *LOL! Well, my boss calls me the "Emmy Girl"! But, yes! It could have been another co-worker that had the case. And, it wasn't like this particular case or episode was the only great case that we had, but this case was the one that, in the Executive Producer's opinion, would be the most likely win an Emmy. So, it could have very well been another producer's case, but all of the producers' team will actually receive an award. I am very proud of the team! They all worked very hard and did the job!*



C-47: So, it is the Executive Producer's opinion that this case was pulled and submitted for Emmy Consideration? Is that correct?

Ms. Craig: Yes, the Executive Producer of the show, Mr. Peter Brennan (pictured at the right) went through the host of cases that we taped last year, which is season 2 of "Cristina's Court", and decided that my particular case was the best one to submit for a few reasons: One of which was that episode was about a pit bull, which we hear about pit bulls in the news all the time, however, this case had a bit of a twist because rather than the pit bull being the bad guy, the pit bull in this case was the good guy who got shot by his neighbor. This dog didn't have a history of being vicious nor was it a threat in the neighborhood or to anyone for that matter.

C-47: I actually saw this episode, it was about loose dog that ran around the neighborhood, and the dog came into an Austin man's backyard.

Ms. Craig: Yes, this dog did, however, have a history of coming into this guy's backyard. The defendant claimed that he told the young man, who owns the dog, "if your dog gets out one more time I am going to shoot it". So the guy thought that was fair warning. He tried to take a picture of the dog being vicious but it was quite clear that the dog was not vicious.

C-47: But, this was a dog that is known for viscous attacks?

Ms. Craig: Yes, this was a pit bull...but the question is can you just go and shoot it? I had particular issues with the case because the Austin man didn't do a lot of work with the Austin's Animal Control and, I, personally, felt that had he called Animal Control several times and didn't get a resolution, then he may be able to take matter into his own hands. His response to me when I talked to him about Animal Control was "they don't do anything unless someone is being bitten, and I didn't want to take a chance because a lot of kids come over to visit the house and I didn't want to take a chance



Robin Walking the Red Carpet in Hollywood

on a child being bitten, injured or killed and then take it into my hands". I could understand both sides of it, but it seemed extremely harsh to shoot and kill and dog when it wasn't vicious. And, the other part that made this Austin man seem so cold, is that the Austin man didn't go tell the young dogs owner that he had killed the dog, or give them an opportunity to do something with the dogs body. The Austin man basically said it was a very hot summer August day, he didn't want the dog bloating up and creating a bad smell on the curb, so he took the dogs body and put it in the dumpster. The young dog owner looked for his loving pet for three days and then ran into the Austin man and he finally fessed up to the dog owner and said that he shot and killed the dog.

C-47: Wow!

Ms. Craig: Yeah... all he had to do was put a note on

the dog owner's door. You know, I have information about your dog, come and see me... And the other thing that made this case interesting as far as putting it in line for an Emmy is that it had issues of Animal Rights and Gun Control. The Austin man was a hunter and had a loaded gun in his house and in a gun cabinet. Questions came up like should people have loaded guns in their house? When they get a notion like this Austin man did, to be able to run in and grab a loaded gun and come outside. What if he had missed and hit and killed a child in the process?

C-47: As the Coordinating Producer for a television court show, I take it that you deal with a lot of legal issues and have to know something about procedures, do you have a legal background?

Ms. Craig: Yes, I am a paralegal and very qualified at it. I worked my way up as a legal assistant, then became a paralegal which is what makes this job extra entertaining for me personally, because I know the questions to ask and I know what it takes for the judge to make a legal decision. My training allows me to understand the evidence in what these people need to prove their cases. For me, it's much more interesting and much less frightening then it is, for perhaps, some of my co-workers.

C-47: How long have you been with "Cristina's Court"?

Ms. Craig: Well this is my third court show at FOX. "Texas Justice" was first. I am one of the few people that has been with the show since the very beginning. I worked on the pilot of "Texas Justice" in 2000; we began production in early 2001. "Texas Justice" ran for four years. Then "Judge Alex" came and I worked on that show for the first three seasons. Currently, I am taking some time off with the "Judge Alex" show. Lastly I have been with "Cristina's Court" for 3 seasons now.



Lisa Lew and Peter Brennan at the Emmy's

C-47: What kind of cases does "Cristina's Court" specialize in?

Ms. Craig: Well Cristina specializes in relationship cases. She is very, very good with relationships. So we do a lot of family cases, we do cases that involve DNA testing, we have a lot of ex-lovers, we have neighbors, we have roommates and people that have some sort of a relationship other than a car accident where two people collided but they have no history with each other or maybe a contractor case where you find somebody in the phonebook and they come and do a bad job for you; this show does not do those type of cases unless there is some novelty issue that makes it more interesting than a normal case of that kind.



Cristina Perez host of "Cristina's Court" at the Emmy's

C-47: how did you get into this field of television?

Ms. Craig: I went to and graduated from the Columbia School of Broadcasting right here in Houston. I graduated intent of being a radio DJ. I auditioned for a radio job and got my first one and interviewed with a country radio station that was based in Rosenberg, Texas. Three months into that I heard that Houston was getting a MTV type VJ music video station.

C-47: Did you interview for a VJ position?

Ms. Craig: Yeah! Me and four thousand other people had the same idea and auditioned for VJ's position. There were three different auditions; each one was more comprehensive

than the next. It was quite a challenge for me because I had never done television before and a new experience. So after passing all the auditions, each group getting smaller and smaller, I was selected from one out of about 20 people to go on-the-air. They virtually said in the first meeting, we hired more people than we needed...may the best man win. So, basically, I was in the group of the "Best Men"

because I was on-the-air. This station, at first, had a smaller viewing audience but yet it was "live" television. It was a challenge and very entertaining, but after six months we had a meeting for those of us who were still there and they said tomorrow we go up via satellite, we now have millions of viewers. At the time I wasn't really thinking OMG there are millions of viewers, I was always thinking we are being "air-checked" and, if you are not up to speed you are not going to be here the next day. It was ruthless in a way and it was a challenge, but it was also an adrenaline rush because we were basically in competition with each other. I was always thinking I was going to be let go and every day was going to be my last.



Cristina Perez and Robin Craig at the Emmy's



C-47: What was the name of the show?

Ms. Craig: *It started off being TV5, but when it went up on satellite it became "Hit Video USA". I worked there for two years. Then I moved to Nashville Tennessee.*

C-47: Well when did you really start to get away from being in front of the camera to being part of things that happen behind the camera?

Ms. Craig: *Well when I move to Nashville, I worked on this show called "TV Home Listing". There I did the on-camera work and voice-over work and I also helped to produce it. It was a show where realtors would buy the time and we would go out and shoot different properties. That's where I started doing more production and I really enjoyed it! Of course, at the time, I was thinking I was spending too much time and money on my hair and fingernails to be wasting it behind the camera. But, I enjoyed the production part of business. I got the bug!*

C-47: How do you view this job of "production"?

Ms. Craig: *I view working on a production as a military operation. It doesn't matter if its Plan "A", "B", "C" or "D", at the end of the day you must be able to say "mission accomplished!" That is all anyone really cares about at the end of the day. It's no different on the court shows. People get cold feet and they cancel at the last minute but the show has to go on. We work at a very quick pace, we tape every day for ten days straight. And, people come up with all kinds of excuses to cancel. So, if you don't have a case on the side, or several cases on the side, ready to go you may be up all night long calling people and saying to them, "hey, what are you doing tomorrow?" Once you get to the end of the day and we have a certain amount of cases that we need to tape, it's up to our producers to make all happen. That's basically what I do.*

C-47: Let's say out of ten calls to prospective litigants, how many say "yes, I'll be on your show?"

Ms. Craig: *Well that is really hard to say, there are good days and there are bad days. We could call all ten and not get one person to come on the show, or we could call all ten and get four. It's really just a numbers game! And, they may all want to come, but they may not be suitable to be on the show or the type of cases we are looking for. But, the first thing to do is to find people who want to come to the show and then to get more involved in the case to get the feel of it. Then we ask ourselves, is this something that Cristina is going to be happy in resolving? A lot of times, the cases don't really have enough content for the time we have available for taping. It has to fit within a time slot and we have to have enough footage to edit it down. Furthermore, Cristina likes cases with layers and that are more involved. Most of our cases deal with relationships and Cristina works very hard to...*

...offer some kind of a resolution if the people involved in the case are going to continue to have some kind of relationship after the judgment has been made.

C-47: When you first learned that your specific show was nominated for an Emmy what was your reaction?

Ms. Craig: *Well, I remember getting an email from Lisa Lew, the Senior Supervising Producer about the nomination, I was so thrilled to read about it and to be even nominated that I kept walking around the house repeating these words, "Emmy Award Nominated TV Producer", I was loving it! LoL! And, once we were actually going to Hollywood, it was very much surreal. I really thought I was in a dream and pinched myself to wake up!*

C-47: When you were sitting at the awards show and heard that "Cristina's Court" won the Emmy how did you react?

Ms. Craig: *LOL! When they called our show, we all seemed to have a delayed reaction. I remember thinking "did they say 'Cristina's Court'? Did I hear that right?" Funny thing is that I remember applauding and thinking, should I stand up? Or should I sit here for another minute? Eventually people started to stand. Actually, we didn't really have a plan about what would happen if we did win and what we were going to do. But, of course, it all fell in line beautifully and it was very delightful. I was in shock and in total disbelief! What was more interesting is being on stage and looking at the audience and seeing the faces of some of the well-known personalities of daytime television like Regis Philbin, Barbara Walters, Ellen DeGeneres, Howard Banks, Rachel Ray and most of the Soap stars that I watch on Television. To look out from the stage and see this type of talent watching us receive the award was absolutely memorable!*

C-47: Did you get to meet your favorite personality and rub elbows with them?

Ms. Craig: *Certainly, I met Ms. Barbara Walters. Funny when we first got to the awards arena and sitting there at the table with one of my co-producers, I said, 'OMG there's Barbara Walters we have to get a picture.' So we planned it out. We were thinking she may be a little reluctant and knowing what an icon Barbara is and understanding what an imposition it could be for people to ask for autographs and pictures, and thinking this may be the only opportunity in our life to do this, we planned to go over, to be very discreet and if she says no we will simply walk away, however as it*



The Emmy Statue

turned out Barbara was more than gracious and I got a fabulous picture of Barbara and myself. Also, Ellen DeGeneres. I always had a thing for Ellen. I appreciate any female that can go to a really high-brow function and regardless of what she is wearing on her body she's wearing tennis shoes. Not anyone can pull that off!

C-47: As far as Houston is concerned, what would you like to see happen in Houston when it comes to the Television and Film industry?

Ms. Craig: *I would like to see Houston produce a number of films and television shows that Chicago, L.A. and New York are producing. Right now a lot of our film work and reality television work is going to Louisiana. We need to get incentives in*

place in Texas and in Houston to bring filmmakers here and to make it affordable for our local filmmakers to create right here instead of going elsewhere! We have to work hard to get people to understand that we have all this talent and the equipment here, we can produce what anybody needs and we need better incentives in place to make it a bit more financially feasible.

C-47: Do you think it's possible?

Ms. Craig: *Absolutely! Rome was not built in a day. But, we are working really hard through organizations like the Texas Motion Picture Alliance to make it happen. We have been ready, willing and able for a long time and the biggest message and the reason why people are coming here, including the court shows is that we can produce something for less thus saving money and allowing a larger profit margin. That's why we have some of the court shows here in Houston and we want other people to realize that and to come to Houston. We are ready to go!*

C-47: Do you have any advice for women coming up and considering this field?

Ms. Craig: *First of all, take any kind of entry level position in whatever the field it is you are shooting for, because a lot of people, including our show, feel better about promoting people to the next level from the inside rather than bringing someone from outside who knows absolutely nothing about what is going on. A lot of people and a lot of my co-workers have started in this business as a PA (Production Assistant) and have now been promoted and have worked their way up to some very nice positions. We all know that on-the-job experience is quite often more beneficial than a college education. If you have a college education that's great but it's the experience that counts. Just get an entry level job in the field, be on-time, work really hard, always go above and beyond the call of duty and the people in charge are going to see that and you just move up the latter.*

C-47: Thank you Ms. Craig for your valuable time. Do you have any last comments?

Ms. Craig: *I am very proud and very honored to be a native Houstonian who was able to win an Emmy without moving out of this great city. And, I would like to use my skills and my knowledge to help other people so that, rather than feeling like you have to move, you can understand that it's better to hang in there. In this business, you have to be on top of the list especially if there aren't as many jobs as there are in other cities. And, you have to be the very best at what it is you are doing.*

Ms. Craig is one of Houston's Film and Television industry leaders. She doesn't know the words "give up" and certainly her life has been filled with experiences that creates a motivated personality. Robin is trained as a motivational speaker, has an eye as a casting director and can scout locations for the right look. The drive to accomplish her goals in producing a high-quality national television show like "Cristina's Court" is evident. Robin is determined to do it again. If anyone can do it, Mr. Craig is certainly the person to tackle the job. A producers job is to find solutions and make things happen. One can say winning an award, like an Emmy, is based on a lot of luck. But, sometimes things happen for a reason. What those reasons may be are not always clear. However, after spending some time with Mr. Craig we can offer this: Ms. Robin Craig is extremely good at what she does. She is a professional who thrives on the type of work that makes her a valuable asset in this city. ####

Robin Craig is another "Made in Texas" Television Producer.

BY THE WAY: Ms. Craig will be attending this month's 9th Annual 2008 Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival in Seabrook Texas. She will be "opening the envelope", as it were, and announcing a winner of a film Category. Ms. Craig has been presenting for several editions of the GCFVF. The Festival will take place in and around Seabrook, September 19th to the 21st.

(From page 9: Sweet Baby Jesus Productions' "Rushin") ...the lead actor, Adam Mayfield, did his own commentary, we did a director and group commentary. We wanted everyone that was part of the film to have their say on the DVD so that they feel a little bit of ownership in the film.

C-47: Are you still in post-production with the Director's cut and commentaries of "Rushin"?

Mr. Clemons: *Yes we are and we hope to be finished sometime September. We want to get one line of dialogue from our L.A. actor, Adam Mayfield. We have sent out a microphone and mixer. As soon as that gets back to us, we will add it to the movie. Although, it's a completed work for the 48 Hour competition, we are still in post-production.*

Mr. Darling: *We are also asking Adam to do his commentary and send it along and we are waiting for that. We pretty much have it wrapped up. This will finalize the Director's cut and then we will start thinking about entering this film into festivals.*

Mr. Clemons: *I think, all together, we are going to end up with 4 to 6 commentaries. So that when you watch the film, you can watch the film 4 to 6 different times and get a different perspective on the film each time you watch it.*

Mr. Darling: *And, you can see something you didn't see and get a different insight into the film. We did so many crazy things that it's hard to watch the film once and get it all in. The commentaries fill in the gaps.*

C-47: Did you have any problems converting your movie date to DVD?

Mr. Clemons: *OMG yes! Near the end of the competition, all of us were running on four hours of sleep and when it came down to crunch-time my brain wasn't working up to par. We had two edit stations going and I could*



Adam Mayfield as "Frank Gilroy"

-n't remember where I put one of the files. Everyone was tired. But, we found it. Then when it came transferring the date to storage, we could have put it on an 8-gig jump drive, but we didn't have one available because our plan was just to burn it on a DVD. When it came time to burning it, guess what? The data was too big. So we had to compress

it and that took so much time. Time was getting close to deadline and we didn't have it burned. So we picked up the laptop, with an external hard drive, shoved the DVD in, and ran to the car.

Mr. Darling: *Yeah, and while Jason was in the backseat burning the DVD, our blogger, Mitch Youts was behind Jason blogging the entire experience. It was great!*

Mr. Clemons: *Finally, we got to Sherlock's. There are so many things that could have gone wrong, we could have hit traffic, then we are screwed, or, if the DVD didn't work, we are screwed. This time we were on a mission. We got that thing in with about 3 minutes left. It was crazy!*

C-47: What do you guys have set up for the future?

Mr. Clemons: *We have a couple of things in mind, right now. We are working on a script for a new short film. We hope to be filming sometime in November of this year. We also have an idea for a feature we are writing that up. I am pretty sure that we are going to get the short out of the way and it will be a "no-budget" idea.*

C-47: Thank you so much for talking with us. You guys did an exceptional job with the film.

Mr. Clemons: *One thing I am really proud of in all our films is the look of it. It is remarkable what we did with a zero budget. It is absolutely unbelievable.*

Mr. Darling: *Thank you! And, good luck on your magazine.*



In addition to winning the "Best Film in Houston", the short film "Rushin" also took several other awards as well at the 48 Hour Film Project-Houston including "Audience Favorite", "Best Choreography", "Best Use of Character", "Best Acting (Ensemble)", "Best Writing" and "Best Directing" 7 awards in all. Cast and team includes: the lead actor, Adam Mayfield as "Frank Gilroy", Caroline Parker as "Natasha", Todd Parker as "Boris", Mitch Youts as "Sergei", Kent Ohler as "Knickerbees Manager" and Music score and Marcus Pruett as "Novabill" the spy. The production team includes: Juan Lopez -Writer, Theo Psomiadis - Editor and Sound, Derek Sollosi - Production Assistant and Lighting, Richard Mays - Illustrations and Titling and Jacob Kurtz - Sound. If you haven't seen this short film you are missing out on a well-made and creative short film. You can see "Rushin" and Sweet Baby Jesus' three other 48 Hour Film Project films at: <http://48hrfilm.blogspot.com>. ####

This is another "Made in Texas" Film.



Mark your calendars, dust off those cameras and get your tickets to the 9th Annual 2008 Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival. This year's festival is taking place in and around Seabrook/NASA area of town. The 2008 GCFVF is proud to bring in celebrity guest "Silver Spoons" Ms. Erin Gray (right). Ms. Gray played "Kate Summers" and was one of the first "models" to crossover from a modeling career to a career in television. The film festival is scheduled to take place this month starting Friday, September 19th through Sunday, September 21st. To kick-off the festival there will be a Buffet Mixer at the Villa Capri Restaurant on Friday September 19th from 7-9PM. Film screenings will take place on Saturday and Sunday starting at 9AM to around 6:30PM. See schedule of screening for times and locations. An Awards Dinner and Awards presentations will take place on Saturday, September 20th at the Balley's American Grille in Seabrook starting at 6:30PM. ####

For Information and tickets go to: GulfCoastFilmFest.com



Marcus Pruett as the "Spy"



THE LIMELIGHT:

Lauren Denos



In our quest to introduce you to this exciting field of Television and Film, **C-47 Houston** is proud to introduce and chat with some of Houston's talent in acting. We first met **Ms. Lauren Denos** a couple of years back at one of the industry mixers. Ms. Denos is one of those people that stands out in a crowd and has a smile to go with it. This actress is very radiant. She is a versatile actress and has taken the lead and supporting roles in numerous independent films here in Houston and in Texas. Lauren was in California when we chatted with her and was working in a film. Ms. Denos has also been on television and has performed on the theatre stage in several productions. This wonderful actress and model has been captured in print and magazines. We caught up with Lauren in August, last month, and chatted with her for a bit about her career and her thoughts about our industry. Ladies and Gentlemen, **C-47 Houston is proud to present: Ms. Lauren Denos.**

C-47: Thank you Lauren for taking some time out to chat with us, How did you get into acting and why?

Ms. Denos: No! Thank you! I got into acting when I was really young. I have never questioned the "Why". I do it and I love it! I just do!

C-47: Have you found it tough or difficult to find acting roles in Houston?

Ms. Denos: First off, there is not much acting work here in Houston. There are times where we just have to make the work up ourselves.

C-47: Well, as an actor in the Houston area, is acting your primary source of income?

Ms. Denos: Absolutely not! I do promotional modeling gigs for an income, as well as other types of jobs in the industry. I just don't act. I do a lot of pre-production, production and post production work. For example, I was recently hired as part of the casting department for the "Longshots" and the "Year One". I prefer to be producing or acting, but I am happy for anything that allows me to make some money being around the television or film industry that I love so much.



C-47: Do you accept acting roles only in Houston or wherever they need you?

Ms. Denos: I, definitely, accept work in other areas. In fact, I am in California right now expanding my base. I will be traveling back and forth for several months. I have also accepted work in New Mexico; which is coming up afterwards. I will go wherever people need me to be and where I can do my job.

C-47: Well this leads me to the next question; do you have a particular style of acting?

Ms. Denos: I have studied many different styles of acting. I think they all blend together now, as

opposed to when I first started. I don't believe there is such a thing as too much information when it comes to learning about this field and particularly in the acting area. I hear other actors talking about only wanting to learn from one style or from one coach. I think for me it's about learning everything people want to share and if it does not work for me or resonate with me, I pretty much discard it as something that just didn't work.

C-47: Do you like to get feedback from non-actors?

Ms. Denos: Oh yes! This is my audience and I personally think it is important to receive the opinions of non-actors about the craft that I do. These are the people that are going to pay to see me and ultimately keep me working. I am doing this to entertain them and any feedback that I can get to better myself is welcome.

C-47: What kind of acting rolls would you like to do or not like to do?

Ms. Denos: LOL! I am generally open to any roll that comes before me. There are only a couple of things that I will not do. And, although I say I will not do it's more that I prefer not to do them. I prefer not to

work in gory horror films or film that require the obligatory nudity. Don't get me wrong; the naked body is a beautiful thing, but the scene needs to have "purpose" for me to take my clothes off. I won't do the part of the "naked chick" just because it's a naked chick.



C-47: Well what would you prefer?

Ms. Denos: I love intelligent films. I always have. I love playing the strong and assertive woman. I would love to play a superhero (Do you hear that everyone? Hire me to play a superhero!) LOL!

C-47: Do you have any mentors you look up to that have guided you through your career?

Ms. Denos: Yes! Ms Connie Cooper. Connie was my acting coach for many years. She has taught me so much about the craft of acting. Secondly, my fellow actors would be considered my mentors as well. They are my students and my teachers!

C-47: What do you think Houston can do to improve the acting environment here in this city?

Ms. Denos: Personally and in my opinion, we need to bring more production and more production opportunities into Houston. I am doing my part. Currently, I am acting in California, but I do my producing and productions right here in Texas. We have a good core group of great actors, right here, but we seem to have a small pool of them that are actually reliable. This inconsistency gives us



an uncalled for bad name and a bad reputation. We can do better!

C-47: Do you think Houston or the state of Texas can make an impact on the television and/or film industry?

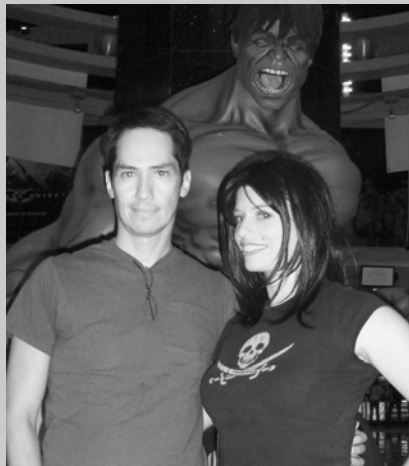
Ms. Denos: Heck yeah! We already have an impact and we are just gearing up! Watch out! Here we come!

C-47: What are you currently working on?

Ms. Denos: Obviously, I can't say too much, yet. However, I can say that I am working on producing a few projects with my film partner Manuel Cantu. I am also co-producing a few projects with other filmmakers here in Houston and I have at least four projects in the post-production phase right now.

C-47: Are you currently a SAG member?

Ms. Denos: No not yet. Living in Houston I really have not needed to join. But, that time is soon approaching. One can only avoid it for so long before it catches up to you and it becomes a necessity. In this state it seems to be better not to be a SAG member, however that is not the case and a different story in California.



Manuel Cantu and Lauren Denos

C-47: Do you have any advice for those thinking about a career in acting in Houston and this State?

Ms. Denos: I think Houston is as good a place as any to start a career in acting. I can only hope that we can keep some of that talent here in Houston. The secret is to start no matter where you are. People tend to believe that as soon as someone even contemplates about a career in the entertainment industry, that you immediately need to move to New York or Los Angeles. However, you can have a great chance to hone and develop your craft in a smaller venue before you venture onward and outward.

C-47: Lauren, are you involved with any of the television or film organizations in the Houston area?

Ms. Denos: I was one of the assistant organizers and casting directors for the Houston Film Organizations. But, you know how time gets away!

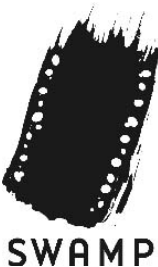
C-47: How do you want people to remember you?

Ms. Denos: If I can produce just one piece of work as an actress or a producer that has a positive influence on the world, then I would have left the mark I want. I want to be remembered as more than an actress. I want to produce thought provoking work. I don't want to just entertain, but I want more than that. I want to make a change and a difference in the lives of the viewer. Art has always been the vehicle for change throughout the ages and I want to be part of that legacy. Art, in my opinion, bypasses all of our defenses and goes straight to the heart. That is why I go about my career with as much integrity as possible. I don't want to look at this like a huge competition, if another actor needs help, well damn it I will give it to him or her. There is plenty of room for all of us. I enjoy this industry as a career and I enjoy it in a positive way.

C-47: Thank you Lauren for your time. You have been open and wonderful.

Ms. Denos: My pleasure and good luck with the magazine.

Lauren hones her skill in acting by continued education. She has been taking acting classes by Connie Cooper, West Coast Arts Center, Mercury Studios and Theresa Bell, among others. Ms. Denos also has voice training with Linda Rose Linnebach and Eduardo Real. She is a singer and songwriter, can do various accents, is excellent in Improv, is trained in Bird and Animal handling, loves to swim, bowl, bike, skate, fish and play pool. Lauren can shoot firearms and is not afraid of getting her hands dirty and build a set. Ms. Lauren Denos represents herself. If you would like more information about Ms. Denos you can contact her at: ReelPhilosophy@yahoo.com. You can visit her website at www.ReelPhilosophy.com. ###



The Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP) and Texas Accountant and Lawyers for the Arts (TALA) are hosting the 2008 Business of Film Conference at the Rice University Media Center, September 20th, this month. The conference is a day-long event with a focus on the business of making movies. Scheduled are panels and discussions with professionals from the film, legal and financial industries that will cover issue like budgeting for film, funding recourses, copyrights, distribution and other relevant topics. For more information visit: www.SWAMP.org ###

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The 3rd Annual 2008 Italian Retrospective: Director Pupi Avati's Houston's Reception



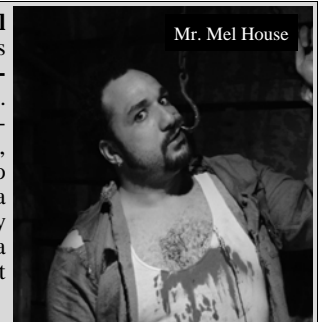
One of the goals of this magazine is to expose the reader to the industry of television and film. Although our focus is to showcase those people that represent Houston and secondly those that represent the State of Texas we will cover filmmakers that come to Houston. On Tuesday, August 19th, last month, C-47 Houston was invited by the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston Film to attend a reception to kick off the 3rd Annual Italian Retrospective



honoring filmmaker/director and screenwriter Giuseppe "Pupi" Avati at the Hotel Granduca. Hosted by Giorgio Borlenghi and Cristiano Maggipinto, the Consul General of Italy, it was Professor Emerita of Italian at the University of Houston, Ms. Luisetta Chomel who spoke about the accomplishments of this

prolific filmmaker and director. Wines and or'dourves were plentiful and all the guests were open to meet others in film and television. Some of Houston's' leader in the field of television and film were in attendance including the head of the Astrodome Studio Project and former president of Women in Film and Television - Houston and one of the founders and former president the Houston chapter of the Texas Motion Picture Alliance, Ms. Cynthia Neely. Also present was Ms. Mary Lampe, the Executive Director of the Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP), Ms. Tracy Karner, Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Visual Studies at the University of Houston, Mr. Thomas Oldham, "John H. Freeman Professor of Law" at the University of Houston Law Center, Mr. Michael Bergeron, Film Editor of the Free Press Houston and Critic with the Houston Film Critics Society, and Mr. Mo Roberts, founder and director of SPAMMO and the quarterly visual arts Objectif Magazine. MFAH-Film Curator Ms. Marian Luntz was in attendance as well. MFAH-Film will be screening the films of filmmaker Pupi Avati and his Producer and brother Antonio Avati on September 19th and 20th. Both Pupi and Antonio may be present at the screening. To learn more about the screening and for tickets visit: MFAH.org/Film or call 713.639.7300 or contact them at Film@MFAH.org ###

Houston Horror filmmaker and director Mel House is putting the final touches on his latest film "Walking Distance". C-47 Houston covered Mr. House in our May issue. Principal photography for "Walking Distance" was wrapped up in July of this year, but additional footage is being shot to "punch up the gore and creep factor" in a few scenes. A call for extras in August by Southwest Casting suggested there will be a "massive death scene" and extras "will get bloody. Very bloody". C47Houston.com has more!



Mr. Mel House

CALL FOR ENTRIES:

This listing is by no means inclusive and not all calls for entries are represented nor listed. If you want your listing to be included, send your press release to: listing@C47Houston.com
All press releases should be submitted before the 25th of each month to be listed on the next issue.



The **2008 Lone Star International Film Festival** is currently accepting submissions for the 2008 festival. Categories include narrative feature length, documentary feature length, short form and animation. Deadline submission is **September 16, 2008**. To submit and for information about official rules and submission procedure visit: www.lonestarfilmsociety.com or contact the Lone Star Film Society at 817.924.6000 or by email at: info@lonestarfilmsociety.com. The 2008 Lone Star International Film Festival will take place Fort Worth, Texas, November 12-16, 2008.

The **2nd Annual 2008 Rockport Film Festival** is calling filmmakers to submit their works. This film festival is accepting Narrative Fiction Features, Narrative Fiction Shorts, Documentary Features, Documentary Shorts, Animated Shorts and Student Films. Regular submission deadline is August 30, 2008, Late Deadline is **September 18, 2008** and WAB Extended Deadline is **September 22, 2008**. There is an entry fees and rules and requirements regarding format. The 2008 Rockport Film Festival is taking place November 6th to the 8th, 2008 in Rockport, Texas. For more information, tickets, entry requirements and submission requirements visit: www.RockportFilmFest.com.

The **2009 Sundance Film Festival** is calling all filmmakers to enter their films to the crème a la crème of film festivals. Sundance is already accepting films. Early submission deadline is Monday, August 18, 2008, Official deadline is Sept. 5th for Short films and Sept. 8th for feature and documentaries film, Late submission deadline is **Sept. 19th** for Short films and **Sept. 22nd** for feature and documentary films. The Sundance Film Festival is taking place in Park City, Utah on January 15th to the 25th, 2009. For more information, tickets, submission application, rules and requirements visit www.Sundance.org.

The **2008 24fps International Short Film Festival** is calling on student and independent filmmakers to submit SHORT FILMS. This is a juried short film competition for film projects of 20 minutes or less. From the field of submitted projects, twenty films will be picked "Official Selections" and screened in competition over the festival **weekend of Friday, October 24th through Saturday October 25th in Abilene, Texas**. The committee will accept works shot in any format for screenings, however projects must be submitted on DVD format to be considered (Region 1 only). All submissions must be postmarked **no later than October 3, 2008** and applicants will be informed of the status of their project no later than Oct. 13th. There is no entry fee and only works completed after January 1, 2005 are eligible. The festival also has a separate competition for young artists, the **Young Filmmaker's Showcase**, which is open to student filmmakers ages 13 to 18. Festival awards include a Grand Jury Prize of \$1000 cash, \$600 for Silver Medal, \$400 for Bronze Medal, \$400 for Audience Award, \$400 for The Horizon Award for Most Promising Filmmaker, and \$500 for the top film in the Young Filmmaker's Showcase. All films are screened in the historical, restored 1930's movie palace and landmark **Paramount Theatre** in Abilene. For tickets to the Festival, information about the Festival, Schedules, time, entry forms and requirements, go to www.24fpsfest.com or email Festival Director Barry Smoot at bsmoot@paramount-abilene.org for questions.

The **15th Annual 2009 Slamdance Film Festival** is calling on filmmakers to enter their films. Early Submission Deadline is August 25, 2008 and Final Submission Deadline is **October 10, 2008**. The Early entry fee is \$25 for shorts (films under 40 minutes) and \$40 for features. The Final entry fee is \$45 for shorts, and \$60 for features. The festival is accepting films in every genre including feature narratives, feature shorts, documentaries, special screenings, animated shorts, gallery shorts, music videos, anarchy shorts, \$99 special shorts, on any topic from every country around the world. The 2009 Slamdance Film Festival is taking place January 15th to the 23rd, 2009 in Park City, Utah and simultaneous with the Sundance Film Festival. For more information, criteria, rules, applications and what to do visit Slamdance.com. Also visit the FAQ Pages. You can email them at Programming@slamdance.com or by phone at: 323.466.1786

The **9th Annual 2009 Bi-National Independent Film Festival** is calling all filmmakers to submit their works to the only film festival in the world that happens in two countries (El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico) Works can be submitted as Features, Documentaries, Shorts, and Short Screenplays from both sides of the border in Spanish and English. Student filmmakers are encouraged to submit. The Bi-National Independent Film Festival will take place January 9th to the 17th, 2009 Deadline for film submission is **December 15, 2009** For more information visits the website at Www.chamizalfilmfestival.org or contact Cesar Alejandro, Exec. Director, at 915.585.0672 or by email at alexfilms@elp.rr.com.

The **2009 AFI-Dallas International Film Festival** is calling on filmmakers to enter their creative works. Feature films must have a minimum running time of sixty (60) minutes. Short films may have a maximum running time of twenty-five (25) minutes. Premiere status is taken into consideration. All films must be at least a Dallas/Fort Worth premiere. The AFI Dallas completed a successful 2008 run this last April with 271 films, more than 484 screenings and attendance of over 42,000. In 2009 the Festival will once again span 11 days and nights and feature screenings featuring nightly red carpet entrances at theaters throughout the city, award presentations filmmaker panels and other special events. The 2009 AFI-Dallas International Film Festival is currently accepting film submissions: Early deadline is October 17, 2008, Regular deadline is November 21, 2008 and Late deadline is **December 5, 2008**. All filmmakers will be notified about their films by February 27, 2009. The AFI-Dallas International Film Festival runs March 26 to April 5, 2009. For more information, submission forms, rules and requirements for submissions visit www.AFIDallas.com or email them at: submissions@AFIDallas.com

The **42nd Annual 2009 WorldFest-Houston International Film & Video Festival** is calling all filmmakers to enter their films and videos. Film entries for the 2009 WorldFest opens on August 15, 2008, but you may send in your entry form now. The early-bird discount deadline is November 15, 2008. The Main entry deadline (no discount) is December 15, 2008. The Final "Brick-Wall" Must-Be-Here-By Deadline is **January 15, 2009**. WorldFest-Houston is one of the oldest and more important film festivals in Texas. WorldFest is the one of the oldest film festivals in the country as well. WorldFest discovered Spielberg, George Lucas, David Lynch, Ang Lee, The Coen Brothers, Robert Rodriguez Brain DePalma, Atom Egoyan and Ridley Scott among many more. The **42nd Annual WorldFest-Houston will take place April 16th to the 25th, 2009**. This Festival is looking for Premiere films. Let's get those films made and entered! Let's make this Festival a Huge Event! Buy a ticket and participate! For more information about this festival, entry form and requirements for submission visit: www.WorldFest.org.



"ALL SINGING! ALL DANCING! ALL ZOMBIES!"



The City Premieres "Z" "Z: A Zombie Musical"

By: Jackie G

If you are the type of person that enjoys the horror film genre and Musical films, then you may want to mark your calendar for the Houston premiere of "Z: A Zombie Musical". Written and directed by Mr. **John McLean** of Austin (pictured at the right), and produced by **Dan Eggleston**, this independent feature film shows the Living Undead in a completely different way. Zombies in this movie are heroes and they are productive, erudite, sexually liberated, philosophical and they can sing. The story involves a young woman named "Faith", played by **Hanna Hardin**, a catholic nun traveling with two fellow Caramel-Like sisters, who gets turned into the Living Undead by the bite of a Zombie Dog while skinny-dipping in Lake Travis. "Faith" then sets off on a journey of discovery that takes her to the home and nest of the Living Undead called "Zomburbia" and enters parts unknown as she seeks a way out of her newly Zombified condition.



Producer Dan Eggleston and Ms. Amy Jordan

"Z: A Zombie Musical", the first Zombie musical feature film, was wrapped in September of 2006 and the film was "in the can" and ready for film festivals and screenings by early 2007. "Z" as it is called in the Austin area, was screened at the 2007 Providence Zombie Film Festival in Providence, Rhode Island, The 2007 WTO Film Festival in Os, Norway and last months **2008 Horrific Film Festival** in San Antonio, Texas. "Z" features a wonderful collection of 14 original songs composed and recorded by various Austin musicians.

The cast of "Z" includes eleven Houston-affiliated actors: Ms. **Kimberly Ensey** (Miss Bikini USA 2001) plays Zombie RollerBabe No. 1, Ms. **Marsela Orozco** plays a featured Zombie dancer, Ms. **Junie Hoang** plays a Zombie postwoman, Ms. **Celeste Garcia**, Ms. **Vatsana Souvannavong**, Mr. **Travis Johnson**, Ms. **Gladys Otero** and Mr. **Baron Otilar** are citizens of "Zomburbia", Mr. **Gary Chason** ("Everything or Nothing" and "Dear Pillow") plays a Zombie bathroom Dude, Ms. **Amy Jordan** plays a choreographer and ZBI Agent No. 1, and Ms. **Maura Navarro** plays a Zombie Hooker.

Also in the cast are leads Ms. **Hanna Hardin** "Faith" and Mr. **Rob Faubion**, "Dan, the Traveling Salesman", **Joe King Carrasco** as the Honorary Mayor of Zomburbia and **Dan Eggleston** "The Philosopher".

This 90-minute film was shot with a Hi-Def digital camera in and around the Austin area. You can view the trailers for "Z" at: www.azombiemusical.com. The Houston premiere of "Z: A Zombie Musical" will be screened at the **Studio Movie Grill Copperfield** at Highway 6 North at West Road. The screening will take place **September 22**, this month starting at 7:30PM.

This is another "Made in Texas" film



Mark Zupan and Maura Navarro

The "Jump The Shark" Syndrome

By: Cindy Kaye

Did you know there is a term used to denote the loss of a television show or a film's original artistic integrity? It's called "**Jump the Shark**". It happens all the time and mostly with television programming. When a show "jumps the shark" the viewer will mostly likely stop watching the show as it no longer maintains its original characteristic that kept you watching in the first place. Shows that "jumped the shark" are typically deemed to have past their prime, since the show has undergone too many changes, or they have steered away from the main premise of the show. Viewers of the show will often notice a dramatic decline in the show's quality and value and will typically find something else to watch. Remember shows like "**Jericho**", "**Lost**" or even "**Ugly Betty**"? These show started off with a very fine premise, but ultimately failed to live up to it's theme by becoming too ridiculous, far-fetched, unbelievable and introducing characters that further weaken the storyline in an attempt to attract viewers. "**Jump the Shark**" can happen with movies, as well, and in many forms. Let's take the Indiana Jones franchise for example. "**Raider of the Lost Ark**" is considered one of the best films in cinema, but many Indiana Jones fans consider the second film, "**Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom**", where they introduce two unrelated and outrageous characters, as having "jumped the shark". According to Wikipedia, the term "jump the shark" is an allusion to a scene in a 1977 episode of the TV series "**Happy Days**" when the character "Fonzie" literally jumps over a shark while water skiing. The scene was considered so preposterous that many believed it to be an attempt at reviving the declining ratings of the flagging show. Ironically, not only was "Happy Days" reflecting the superstardom of real-life shark jumper "Evel Knievel" in the episode, but the series was wildly successful in 1977. This show was the most popular show on television in that year, behind its spin-off, "Laverne & Shirley".



The term "**Nuking the Fridge**" is a colloquialism used by film critics and fans and has a meaning similar to "jump the shark". If you watched the fourth Indiana Jones film "**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**", Indiana Jones is literally hit by the blast of an atom bomb while hiding inside a lead-lined refrigerator in a desperate attempt to escape being "nuked". The fridge is hurled away and lands on the ground where the main character not only survives but is unhurt. I, personally found that scene to be so "out-there" that it set the tone for the quality of the writing and the value of the film. Whether it is "Nuke the Fridge" or "Jump the Shark" films and TV shows will decline in their appeal the longer they run. If you think a television show or movie has "jumped the shark" write to **C-47 Houston** and tell us which show has jumped the shark and why. Send us your views to: info@c47houston.com. ###

Welcome to the New Television Season!

By: Julie Harris



September has been the mark for the start of the new television season for years. It starts this month. And, finally, with years of unprecedented strikes and failed agreements in Hollywood, the writers are back on the job and have created scripts that have been pitched and shows that have been created to capture the viewers attention and to keep them watching. In this writers opinion and despite the figures put out by the Neilson company, Americans are not interested in living their lives vicariously through dysfunctional and wannabe people that you would call the police on. American's are not interested in creating superstars in music when they have not come up through the ranks of gigs and clubs but from winning a "game-show". Reality television has run its course. It has managed to fill the gap that the writes and actors strikes have left in their wake. A cheap thrill, a cheap production and at the cost of fragmenting, even further, the viewing habits of its core audience. The new season is a breath of creativity. It is going to be nice not to be watching the same old reruns that I have seen again and again. And, it will great to get away from these silly and degrading reality television shows that remind me of the 1969 Sydney Pollack movie called "They Shoot Horses Don't They?" This past few years has ruined television for a lot of people. Mark the words: This is the beginning of the end of free television. But, that's entertainment for you! Enjoy the new season! ###

This "Daily Schedule" is by no means inclusive and does not represent every event or screening in the Houston Metroplex area. This is a courtesy listing and no rights are granted for inclusion and/or listing. If you have an event or screening that you would like for our **C-47 Houston** readers to know about and attend, send a press release of your event or screening to:

listing@C47Houston.com

before the 25th of each month to be included in the next months issue. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. All press releases should contain contact information. No warranties are implied or inferred.

Sept. 1st - Monday - **The Houston Filmmakers Organization** will hold their monthly mixer at 7PM at the GRAB Game Room & Bar. **IT'S FREE** See: www.odysseepictures.com/hfo for more information.

Sept. 4th - Thursday - The Houston Film Commission's **Texas Filmmaker's Showcase** will be screening Texas films downtown at Dean's Credit Clothing starting at 9PM - **IT'S FREE** See: www.houstonfilmcommission.com for more information.

Sept. 7th - Sunday - The Aurora Picture Show presents "Education Films and You: A brief History of 16MM Films in the Classroom" FREE admission. Snacks and drinks provided. For more information visit: www.AuroraPictureShow.org.

Sept. 9th - Tuesday - Women in Film and Television-Houston present "WIFT's Breakfast Rap!" at the Black Walnut. Members and those wanting to join only. For more info. Visit their website at: www.wift-houston.org.

Sept. 9th and 10th - Tuesday and Wednesday - **The Houston Institute for Culture** and the **Houston Arts Alliance** presents a **FREE** screening of Directors David Redmon and Ashley Sabin's "Kamp Katrina" and "Intimidad" at The River Oaks Theater for more information visit: www.Houstonculture.org/film.

Sept. 12th through Sept. 14th - Friday to Sunday - **The 15th Annual CineSol Film Festival**. South Padre Island, Texas. For more information and tickets visit: www.CineSol.com.

Sept. 18th through Sept. 25th - Thurs. to Thurs. - **FANTASTIC Fest 2008**, Austin Tx. For information: www.fantasticfest.com.

Sept. 19th and 20th - Friday and Saturday - The Museum of Fine Arts - Houston / Film presents the **3rd Annual 2008 Italian Retrospective** honors and screens the films of Italian director Pupi Avati and filmmaker/Brother Antonio Avati.

Sept. 19th through Sept. 21st - Friday to Sunday - **The 9th Annual 2008 Gulf Coast Film and Video Festival**. For more information visit: www.GulfCoastFilmFest.com

Sept. 20th - Saturday - SWAMP and TALA presents the **2008 The Business of Film Conference**. For more information visit the SWAMP at: www.SWAMP.org

Sept. 22nd - Monday - John McLean and Dan Eggleston present their Houston premiere of "Z: A Zombie Musical" at the Movie Studio Grill. For more information visit: aZombieMusical.com

Sept. 23rd - Tuesday - The MFAH-Film presents in association with SWAMP the **11th Annual Manhattan Short Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.MFAH.org/Film

Sept. 23rd - Tuesday - **The Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP) Salon** presents the **Astrodome Studio Campaign**. **IT'S FREE** See: www.swamp.org for time and information.

Sept. 24th through Sept. 28th - **The Thin Line Film Festival** in Denton Texas. Visit: www.ThinLineFilmFest.com.

Sept. 26th through Sept. 28th - The MFAH-Film presents **Qfest, the 12th Annual Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.MFAH.org/film.

Sept. 26th through Sept. 28th - **The Flatland Film Festival**, Lubbock, Texas. For information: www.FlatLandFilmFestival.com.

Visit: www.C47Houston.com for updates on current events and activities. Click on the "Daily Schedule" and be part of the movie business.

October 2nd - Thursday - The Houston Film Commission's **Texas Filmmaker's Showcase** will be screening Texas films downtown at Dean's Credit Clothing starting at 9PM - **IT'S FREE** See: www.houstonfilmcommission.com for more information

October 2nd - Thursday - The Women in Film-Dallas present the **2008 Chick Flicks Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.WIFDallas.org.

October 4th and 5th - Saturday and Sunday - **The 2nd Annual McAllen Art and Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.shortfilmtexas.com

October 6th - Monday - **The Houston Filmmakers Organization** will hold their monthly mixer at 7PM at the GRAB Game Room & Bar. **IT'S FREE** See: www.odysseepictures.com/hfo for more information.

October 16th Through October 23rd - **The Austin Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.AustinFilmFestival.com.

October 23rd - Thursday - The Aurora Picture Show will be hosting "A Celestial Event Aurora". This is an Annual Fundraiser Dinner and support is needed. Visit the website at www.AuroraPictureShow.org.

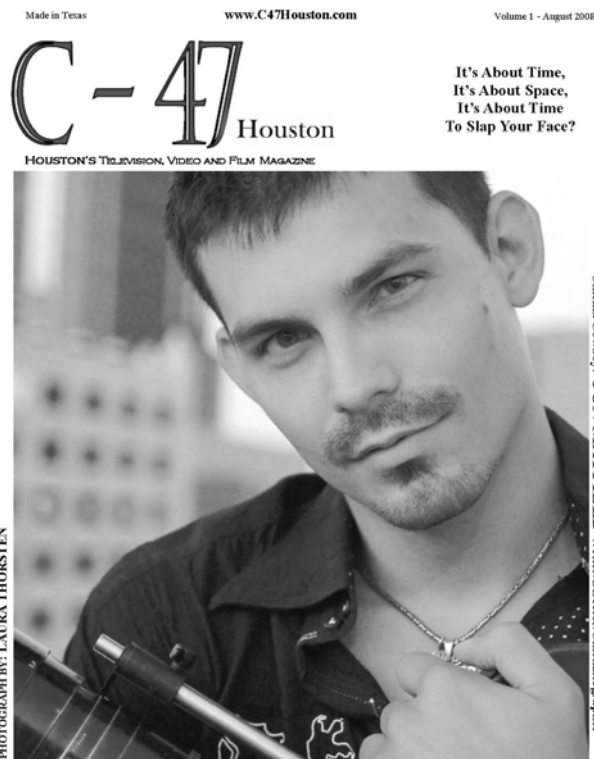
October 24th and 25th - Friday and Saturday - **The 2008 24fps International Short Film Festival**. For more information visit: www.paramount-abilene.org/24fps.

October 25th - Saturday - **The 6th Annual 2008 Film Expo Texas**. For more information visit: www.FilmExpoTexas.com.

October 28th - Tuesday - **The Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP) Salon**. **IT'S FREE** See: www.swamp.org for time and information.

October 31st - Friday - Halloween (do the zombie and have fun)

LAST MONTH



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hal Wilson Interview & Dir. Billy Cox Interview & Ms. Darian Ward wins Award & Indie Filmmaker: Felix O'Connell
The TFC's P.A. Workshop & The AV Swap & LineLight: Ms. Jennifer Cahill & Dr. Chris Nelson's "ToyPunks"
Indie Filmmakers: Patrick Font & Jalro Freyre & Indie Filmmaker: Andrew Edison & Horrific Zombie Walk & Fest.

Visit: www.C47Houston.com and read past issues of the magazine online. Click on any cover and enjoy!



QFest

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2008

THE ANNUAL HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO THE MFAH. THE 12TH EDITION SHOWCASES PREMIERES OF NEW FEATURE FILMS, DOCUMENTARIES, AND INTERNATIONAL HITS FROM THE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT CHOSEN BY QFEST'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KRISTIAN SALINAS. VISIT WWW.Q-FEST.ORG FOR THE FILM SCHEDULE AND FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES.

Special ticket prices apply! Individual tickets are \$10. MFAH members, senior adults, students with ID, and members of Film Buffs receive a \$2 discount on tickets. Ultimate Film Supporter level members of Film Buffs are admitted free.

SPECIAL THANKS TO KRISTIAN SALINAS AND SIXTO WAGAN OF QFEST.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
1001 Bissonnet at Main
www.mfah.org/films
713.639.7515

QFEST

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INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MFAH FILMS

For Information, Ticket, schedule of screenings and events visit www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com.
For additional information contact 281.333.5804 or email at: whiteriverrock@webtv.net

The 2008 Gulf Coast Film & Video Festival

THIS IS OUR HOLLYWOOD

SEPT. 19-21, 2008



**Erin Gray
Scheduled
to Attend**

SCREENINGS

SEPT. 20-21 AT:

SAN JACINTO COLLEGE CENTRAL

POWELL AREANA THEATRE

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