

Texas Film Festival Kicks Off

MSC Film Society helps bring in independent talents of the cinema world

By April Towery
Staff writer

Brent Troyan has a dream, and today's event will bring him one step closer to fulfilling it. Troyan, chair of the MSC Film Society and a senior English and speech communications major, is set to kick off the Film Society-sponsored Texas Film Festival today.

"I'm looking forward to getting some insight into the industry for myself," Troyan said. "A question I'm always asking directors is, 'Should I go to film school or just head out to L.A.?' It's an expensive question."

The Texas Film Festival is a five-day, non-competitive independent film festival directed by senior management major Melissa Currin.

It is set to include seven feature films, 22 shorts (40 minutes of film

each) and three free workshops.

This year's workshops are Music in Film, Ethnicity in Film and The Work of Tarantino.

"The film festival celebrates film as art and the genius of independent filmmakers from across the world," Troyan said.

This year is the first time a children's screening room will be a part of the festival. This is a chance to involve the community and faculty families. Children's movies and pizza will be available to younger movie critics.

This is the fifth year for the Film Society to sponsor the event. The first year was a tribute to Spike Lee, and in 1995 Oliver Stone was a guest speaker.

"That was a thrill ride for me, personally," Troyan said.

But last year, the festival took a different turn. Festival directors decided it was best to honor independent filmmakers by not having a "big name" di-

rector. Troyan said the change was for the best.

"From a businessman's point of view, last year was the best ever," he said. "We don't need a big speaker to draw attention. It generates its own interest legitimately."

In fact, the festival has quite a track record of drawing filmmakers who later make a name for themselves.

Director William Gazecki was a part of last year's festival, and this year his film *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*, is an Oscar-nominated best documentary.

Troyan emphasized that the selection of movies in the festival holds something for everyone, from romantic comedy to drama to animation.

Currin and Troyan each said the highlight of the festival for passholders is getting to know the filmmakers on an individual basis. Students may pur-

chase a pass to the festival for \$17.50 and meet the film directors at an exclusive reception at Fox and Hound Saturday afternoon.

"It's a great opportunity for anyone interested in film," Troyan said. "We give directors the V.I.P. treatment here. It's very culturally oriented. We take them to the Chicken or whatever, depending on what they want to do. Last year, I took one of the directors to Freebirds and he was like, 'Wow, that's a really big burrito.'"

Currin said the festival is a unique opportunity for students.

"You get the chance to see things that you're not getting to see at mainstream theaters around town, at least for a while," Currin said.

And, meanwhile, though Troyan may still be wandering around Freebirds in College Station instead of the movie studios in Hollywood, opportu-

nities such as these are giving him a little more insight to his dreams and his future.

"It's exciting meeting people still trying to make it who are interested in helping people not that far behind them," Troyan said.

"They are real people. And because of them, this is the most exciting time of year, in my mind, for Film Society. These are movies you will more than likely never have the chance to see again, but someone has put a lot of time into them. Take a chance on something you haven't seen before."

Non-student passes are available for \$20, and individual screening tickets may be purchased for \$3.

Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or 45 minutes prior to each screening. For more information, call MSC Film Society at 845-1234.

Norman Rockwell on Display

In the tradition of showcasing great artists, the Stark Gallery presents famous lithographs

By Travis Irby
Staff writer

The J. Wayne Stark Gallery is showing some classic American art in the form of 52 hand-signed Norman Rockwell lithographs.

The exhibit will run through March 8. The signed lithographs came into existence in the late 1960s after Rockwell was urged to turn some earlier art into lithographs.

The lithographs were created by transferring Rockwell's original images to plates and stones with a painstaking and time-consuming process.

Catherine Hastedt, curator for the University Art Collections and Exhibitions, said the Rockwell exhibition has received a terrific response.

"Norman Rockwell is so well-known and well-loved," Hastedt said.

The collection of lithographs not only has well-known Rockwell works like his Saturday Evening Post

covers, but several of his book illustrations.

Hastedt said while his book illustrations aren't as famous as the Post covers, they still personify the Rockwell charm.

"Everyone knows about Rockwell's work on the Saturday Evening Post, but he also did illustrations for Boy Scout publications, *Tom Sawyer*, *Huckleberry Finn* and *Poor Richard's Almanac*," Hastedt said.

Rockwell was also a child prodigy. He was accepted into the Chase School at age 14, the National Academy of Design at age 15 and the Art Students League at age 16. At 22, he first did his first Saturday Evening Post cover.

Hastedt said this was quite an accomplishment in his time.

"It was a big deal for anybody to have a Post cover at any age," Hastedt said. "But to have one at 22 was amazing."

Hastedt said throughout his career Rockwell was not only talented, but also prolific.

"He had a huge volume of work," Hastedt said.

"Rockwell had 322 covers and about 2,600 published works of art."

The collection is owned by Walt Powers, a professor emeritus at Eastern Washington University. The tour management is being provided by the College of Fine Arts at Eastern Washington University.

Hastedt said she thinks the Rockwell exhibit has a number of things to offer art lovers. "It can tie into a number of curricula like sociology and art," Hastedt said.

Hastedt also said people enjoy Rockwell's vision of America.

"It is a very romanticized view of America," Hastedt said. "It is extremely accessible art and presents defining visual images."

Visitors seem to be getting the same feeling when they view the works of Norman Rockwell.

"One woman came up to me and said she had been walking around smiling the whole time, without even realizing it," Hastedt said.



JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

THOMAS, GRADUATE ASSISTANT TO THE CURATOR, LOOKS AT THE NORMAN ROCKWELL EXHIBIT AT THE J. WAYNE STARK GALLERY.

The MSC Film Society of Texas A&M Presents

The Fifth Annual

Texas Film Festival

February 18-22, 1998

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 Night of Shorts

- *Man's Best Friend*
- *Dust and Other Particles of Attraction*
- *Operation*
- *Americana: Forever a Rebel*
- *Italian Lessons*
- *My Body*

10:00 Feature: *Coventry*

With additional short film:
Flying with the Angels

Thursday, February 19

7:00 Feature: *First to Go*

With additional short films:
- *Cosmic Strings*
- *Anna in the Sky*

10:00 Featured Film: *Sweet Jane*

With additional short film:
Tumbling After

Friday, February 20

4:00 Workshop: "Music in Film"

7:00 Night of Shorts II

- *Lunch with Louie*
- *The List*
- *Moving Prime*
- *The Little Things*
- *Pu Ro Mi Su (The Promise)*
- *Secrets*

Friday, February 20 (cont'd)

10:00 Feature: *Made Men*

With additional short films:
- *The Puzzle*
- *Fast Food*

Saturday, February 21

1:00 Workshop: "Ethnicity in Film"

2:00 Children's Screening Room

- *Happy New Year*
- *Partners in Crime*
- *Big Bucks for Buddha*

3:00 Workshop: "The Work of Tarantino"

7:00 Feature: *Just Friends*

With additional short films:
- *Ah L'Amour*
- *Lily and Jim*

10:00 Feature: *Nude with Oranges*

With additional short film:
El Artista

Sunday, February 22

2:00 Feature: *The New Gods*

With additional short film:
Six Months of Darkness, Six Months of Light

Ticket Information

Individual Tickets

\$3.00

Festival Pass

\$20.00

provides access to all screenings, special receptions, workshops & hospitality room

Student Festival Pass

\$17.50

Same access as festival pass.

Available to anyone with valid student I.D.

Tickets can be purchased at the MSC Box Office

(409)845-1234

Aggie Bucks Accepted



Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three(3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.

Made Possible in Part by the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Brazos Valley Arts Council.

Movie Poster Sale!!!!

MSC Hallway

Monday-Friday, February 16-20, 1998

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Benefitting the MSC Film Society and the 1998 Texas Film Festival