

TEXAS FILM FESTIVAL 2000

Workshops focus on director

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

The Texas Film Festival is not just about showing independent films; it is about much more. Each year the festival holds free workshops for those interested in the different aspects of filmmaking.

This year, the 7th Annual Texas Film Festival will hold eight workshops and include diverse topics such as computer animation, film theory and production.

"This year a majority of the workshops will be held by the filmmakers themselves," said Casey Starr, director of the Texas Film Festival and a senior industrial distribution major.

"In the past years the workshops have mainly been given by A&M professors. This year we asked the filmmakers coming if they would like to host workshops and a lot of them jumped on the opportunity."

"Professors have usually done just 'critiques' of films, while the directors coming have actual experience and many stories to tell," said Ryan Whitworth, chair of MSC Film Society and a senior biomedical science major. "Most of the filmmakers we asked didn't need much time to decide what they wanted to do a workshop on. They knew what they wanted to talk about."

In addition to filmmakers giving workshops, Scott Meadows and Tina Messinger, graduate students from the Visualization Laboratory at A&M, will be holding a workshop on 3-D Modeling, Texturing and Animation.

Four directors will be hosting workshops Wednesday through Friday afternoon in Rudder Tower.

On Wednesday, former student Jo Streit will be hosting "The Art and Business of Producing Films" workshop. Streit directed *Flirting with Power*, a documentary about Ross Perot's 1992 presidential campaign. The workshop will deal with the various

job requirements of producers on a feature film. Meredith Scott Lynn, who co-directed and produced *Standing on Fishes*, will host "How to shoot your low-budget film and sell it (or not)" on Thursday.

Christina Black, director of *A Bumpy Ride*, will look at the history and difficulty of filmmaking in Africa in her workshop "Yoruba Filmmaking in Nigeria" on Friday.

Following Black's workshop Stu Pollard will present "How the film you write is different from the film you make." Pollard, director of *Nice Guys Sleep Alone*, will discuss the logistical differences between writing and shooting a film. *Nice Guys Sleep Alone* will be shown in Rudder Theater at 9:30 p.m.

Dr. Terence Hoagwood, an English professor, will be the only A&M professor presenting a workshop this year and has given festival workshops in the past. His workshop "Postmodernism in Film" will be held on Thursday.

On Saturday, a new addition to the Texas Film Festival will premiere. Directors, writers and producers, including Robert Rodriguez, will participate in a panel discussion "War Stories" on the production of each of them have encountered in the production of their films.

"The idea for the panel was originally suggested by Cass Paley, director of *WADD: The Life and Time of John Holmes*, but unfortunately his film ended up not showing," Whitworth said.

"The panel is going to be the most relaxed of the workshops," Starr said. Dr. Hoagwood is going to be the moderator. We are very excited about the panel idea and we hope it turns out to be really fun, so we can continue to do it in future years."

"War Stories" will be an hour and a half of free discussion among the filmmakers and audience. It will be on Saturday at 1 p.m. in 301 MSC.

All workshops, including "War Stories," are free.



Shooting the Future of d

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:00 p.m.

Night of Shorts I

9:30 p.m.

Flirting with Power

SHOWING AT RUDDER COMPLEX



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00 p.m.

Across the Line

9:30 p.m.

The Cure for Boredom

SHOWING AT CINEMARK
HOLLYWOOD 16



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

5:00 p.m.

Night of Shorts II

SHOWING AT RUDDER THEATER

7:00 p.m.

Now and Then

9:30 p.m.

The Last Late Night

SHOWING AT CINEMARK
HOLLYWOOD 16