

The big picture

The 11th annual Texas Film Festival lineup will include HIV documentary

By Robert Saucedo
THE BATTALION

Michael Venner, a senior psychology major, heard about HIV when he watched the film "Philadelphia." The film introduced him to the epidemic and many years later, he is using the same media to spread awareness for it.

"I saw the movie got interested about (AIDS)," Venner said. "My dad worked in the health industry and he was worked with people with AIDS."

Venner said although he feels like he knows an average amount about the disease, that he can always afford to learn more.

On Wednesday, the MSC Film Society will present a special showing of "A Closer Walk" as part of the 11th annual Texas Film Festival. The documentary includes testimonies from patients, doctors and nurses from across the world. It also includes interviews with the Dalai Lama, Bono and Kofi Annan.

"It was very emotional," Venner said. "It was a really good film. It's an important film for people to see. I'm definitely going to watch it again. No matter how good or bad the movie is, it's an important movie to see."

When the movie is shown on Wednesday, audiences will also be able to listen to Josh Lozman, a representative from the Global Health Organization, who will lead a presentation on the disease and its effects.

Venner said the screening is sure to affect each student in a different way.

"Today we got an e-mail from someone who went to the festival's Web site and saw the film's trailer and started crying because it was so emotional to him," Venner said. "He said to tell audiences to bring Kleenexes."

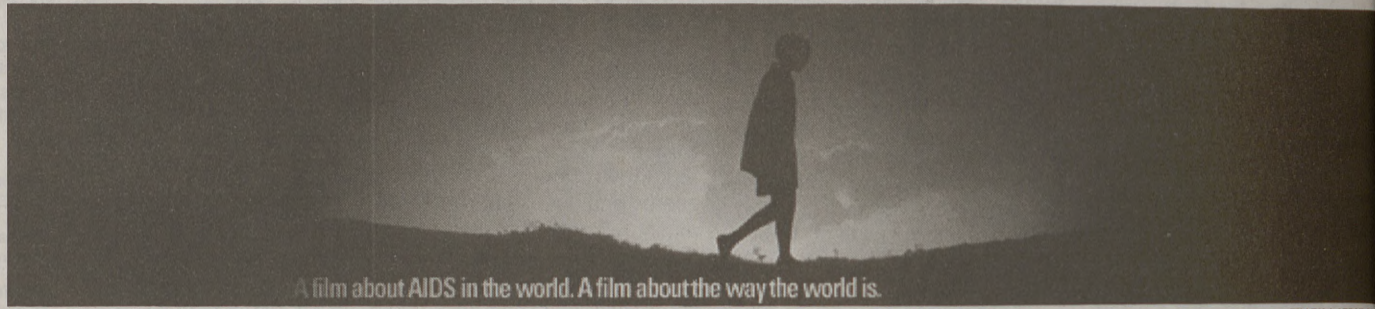
"A Closer Walk" is just one of the many films being shown this year at the Texas Film Festival.

With Monday's unveiling of the 11th annual Texas Film Festival, a year's worth of work and preparation from the MSC Film Society has been brought to close. From planning to execution, the Film Society has worked to bring a weeklong program of films and workshops to the Bryan-College Station area.

Venner, MSC Film Society chair, said the society's primary goal in putting together the film festival is to import of films to the local area.

"Our goal is really to provide something for the Bryan-College Station area," Venner said. "A lot of the movies being shown may be released in New York and Los Angeles, but they may not get a release in the Bryan-College Station area."

This year's lineup includes 11 features (including four films scheduled for wide release) and 13 short films, and is something in which Venner said he takes great pride.



The Texas Film Festival will include screenings of movies that deal with historical and social issues, such as "A Closer Walk," a documentary about AIDS patients from across the globe. The film is narrated by Will Smith and Glenn Close.

"We have everything from special advanced screenings to eight other features with the director for nearly all of them in attendance," Venner said. "Pretty much the earmark for all of them is that you get to see a really good movie and then talk to director afterwards."

The Texas Film Festival began in 1993 and has grown to become the largest student-run independent film festival in the nation.

"Every year we've been programming it, we begin work on the next one as soon as the year's festival is over. We've been working hard on the 11th ever since the end of the 10th festival," Venner said.

Hallie Gardiner, a senior political science major, has been a member of the Film Society since her sophomore year and has been working with the festival for three years. As the director of the Texas Film Festival, Gardiner carries a lot of responsibility.

"I'm in charge of just about everything (in regards to the film festival)," Gardiner said.

With a squad of assistant festival directors and the entire film society behind her, Gardiner will see the fruit of the Film Society's labor harvested as the festival begins this week.

"We have better movies than we've ever had in the history of the festival," Gardiner said. "A number of the movies we are showing have already been shown in other festivals - one of the directors is going to Cannes. We (also) have advanced screenings. We have bigger profile movies."

Gardiner said some of the high-profile movies of the festival will include "Hidalgo," "Broken Lizard's Club Dredd" and "The Girl Next Door." She said all advanced screenings will be free. Gardiner said the film society hopes to have a better strategy of getting the word out on the festival.

"Last year, we only put our Web site up a day before the festival," Gardiner said.

Venner said one of the struggles that the student-led project has faced in previous years is a lack of proper exposure, which prompted this year's strong advertising blitz.

"From years past we've talked to people that have said, 'I don't know about it I would have come,'" Venner said. "We're marketing everywhere we can. At the Memorial Student Center, we have a banner and we have sandwich boards. Last weekend and this coming weekend when you go to Cinemark you get an extra ticket that's a film festival coupon for \$5 off an all-festival pass."

Even though he realizes someone of his position raving about the festival's lineup is bound to sound biased, Venner said he is excited about this year's festival.

"I'm a fifth-year senior and I have to say that this festival is the best in years past," Venner said. "Every year we screen films before we choose which ones to show and I'll occasionally want to see the film again if I get a chance, but this year I'm marking on the calendar the ones I can't wait to see. I (already) have questions for the directors."

Kevin Jordan, a junior journalism major, purchased a festival pass as soon as they were open for public sale.

"Every year I've been coming here (Texas A&M), I've gone to the festival in varying degrees," Jordan said. "I've bought an all-festival pass every year."

Having enjoyed his visits to the festival in the past, Jordan looked forward to this year's festival. Jordan said one of the attractions of the festival is being able to see movies before they are in theaters.

"It's cool to see the advanced screenings so I can talk about them with friends before they are released," Jordan said.

Venner said College Station's small size is not a setback for the film festival.

"No one would think that in College Station, Texas, there would be a film festival," Venner said. "If you think about it, Telluride and Sundance (film festivals) are all in small cities. Why shouldn't we have the best film festival at the Texas A&M campus?"

Tickets can be purchased at the MSC Box Office. For more information and a complete schedule of the festival's events, go to msc.tamu.edu.

veritas • veritas • veritas

Tuesday February 17

Spiritual Journey Panel

&

Dialogue: "Perspectives on Jesus Christ: Christian and Islamic"

see below for time and location details

Tuesday February 17

Spiritual Journey Panel with General John Van Alstyne (Corps Commandant), Dr. Charles Futrell (Business), Dr. Ken Wigley (Cardiologist), Dr. Andrew Chan (Engineering) and TAMU Football coach Mark Tommerdahl

4:00 - 5:30 P.M. • Rudder 510

Dialogue: "Perspectives on Jesus Christ: Christian and Islamic", with Dr. William Lane Craig and Dr. Jamal Badawi

7:00 P.M. • Rudder Auditorium

Wednesday February 18

"Five Reasons God Exists and Three Reasons Why It Makes A Difference" with Dr. William Lane Craig

9:30-11:00 A.M. • Rudder 404

"Is There Scientific Evidence for the Existence of God?", with Dr. Walter Bradley

7:00 P.M. • Rudder Auditorium

Thursday February 19

Women's Lunch: "The Role of the Body in the Spiritual Search" with Lilian Calles Barger (President of Damaris Project),

12:30-1:45 P.M. • MSC 231 • RSVP: RHildreth@clm.org

"What I Learned from Sex and the City" with Lilian Calles Barger

4:00-5:30 P.M. • Rudder 410

"Relativism, Truth, and Tolerance" with Dr. Peter Kreeft

7:00 P.M. • Rudder Auditorium

Friday February 20

Catholicism and Evangelicalism: Are They Compatible?, with Dr. Peter Kreeft. St Mary's Catholic Church, 7:00 A.M. (reservations please: info@aggiecatholic.org) NOTE: This event is not just for Catholics. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no charge for the breakfast.

veritas • veritas • veritas • veritas • ve

www.veritas.org/TexasA&M

February 16-20, 2004

What will your mother say?



Actually, if you tell her you signed an organ donor card, she'll know she raised you to do the right thing. Caring about others has always been important in your family. When you tell your family that you want to be a donor, they'll know to follow your wishes. In fact, talking to your family is just as important as signing your donor card or driver's license.

Come talk to us at the MSC or the Blocker Building on March 11 from 10am-3pm.

GET THE FACTS
SIGN A CARD
TELL YOUR FAMILY
SAVE LIVES

www.donorworld.com
1.800.355.7427

www.organ.org
1.800.788.8058

Organ Donor Card



I, _____, have spoken to my family about organ and tissue donation. I wish to donate the following:

Any needed organs and tissue

Only the following organs and tissue: _____

Date: _____

The following individuals have witnessed my commitment to being a donor:

40 Certi
40 Term
Keaton Br
Mario Cas
Aaron B-F
David Mar
Grant And
Karan Gar
Jan Anton
John Rand
Richard Ty
Ross Dani
Christophe
Aaron Gle
Alexander
Adrian Sco
Kyle Josep
Joseph Wil
Jonathan S
Samuel Pau
Raymond P
Craig Alan
Garrett Ho
Matthew Br
Matthew Ti
Stephen Lo
Steven Edw
Greg Denn
Charles All
Jessica Lyn
Tyler Bland
Yregina Son
Michael L
Elizabeth N
Stephanie M
Daniel Ray
Kyle Lee Vig
Thomas Ber
Robey Eric
Dean's Ho
1.75 Term
No grade
Fall fish can
Raphael Co
Brad Willia
Christophe
Derek Cor
Kenneth Le
Daniel Jack
William Bro
Troy Hamm
Richard Da
Aaron Alex
Melissa Ch
Barbara Pa
Manuel Rod
Christopher
Johnathon
Andrew W
Meghan Ma
Joshua Dea
Zachary W
Command
1.50 Term
James Ralph
Berry Thom
David And
Jason Allen
Paul Eugene
Rhett Lee
Grant Robe
Zan Derek
Clayton Da
William De
Travis Jon
Andrew Th
Michael Alle
David Chris
Justin Beau
Tommy Gle
Ryan Scott
Samuel Jose
Jonathan Sa
Isaku Kunis
Jason Elliot
Douglas Ra
Ryan Micha
Michael Jon
John Micha
Andrew Th
Christopher
Ryan Alexar
Sina Lonel S