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Film festival seeks creations

By Paul Kita, pkita@mariettatimes.com

Marietta's first film festival is now accepting submissions, hoping to pool together some of the brightest and most creative wannabe moviemakers from across the Mid-Ohio Valley.



ROBB DeCAMP Special to The Times

**Troy DeVol, Andrew Jones and Mic Molinaro, organizers of the first River City Film Festival, hope to raise money for the reconstruction of the Colony Theatre.**

"A lot of filmmakers in this area are just waiting for a chance to express themselves," said Tory DeVol, co-chair of the River City Film Festival. "Film is one of the arts that is just in people."

The festival plans to screen short films, full length films, documentaries and animation offering enough of a variety for wide appeal, said Mic Molinaro, one of the festival's organizers.

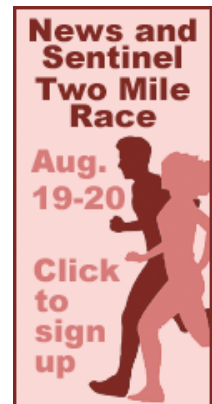
"The film festival will bring a younger and older crowd together. It doesn't matter if you're 90 years old or 10 years old, everyone likes films," Molinaro said.

Besides its entertainment value for the community, the River City Film Festival will also act as a networking tool between fledgling and established filmmakers throughout the Mid-Ohio Valley.

"This isn't going to be just for people who know how to make films, but people who want to learn to make films too," Molinaro said.

The festival will feature instructional filmmaking workshops and a keynote address delivered by Louie Cowan, an actor, director, producer and writer for movies such as "Turkey Day" and "A Cold Blood."

"Film is such a collaborative medium. You may write a great film script, but



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if it just sits on your shelf without anyone ever reading it, that's where it will stay," Cowan said.

Film festivals are an excellent opportunity for filmmakers to network and share ideas, he added.

"The first step toward doing something you want to do is surrounding yourself with other people who want to do the same thing," Cowan said.

Local filmmakers Jeremy Mendenhall and Jon Defibaugh have been concentrating on making movies for six years. They said a film festival in this area is due.

"It's something that needs to be done around here. It's great to have somewhere to show your work even if your films are just for fun," Defibaugh said.

Mendenhall and Defibaugh create fantasy comic book films, and try to balance a low budget and high ideals.

Due to limited resources, such as willing actors and lack of funds, the filmmakers hope to connect with fellow movie producers at the festival as well as get their movie shown to a wider audience.

"We'll see how it (our film) goes and enjoy the whole process," Defibaugh said.

All proceeds from the River City Film Festival will go toward the renovation of the Colony Theatre, said Andrew Jones, co-chair for the event.

"It's going to be a film festival with local flavor, while keeping the Colony at the forefront," said Jones.

The festival will be held Sept. 29 and 30.

The deadline for film submissions is Sept. 1.

How to

submit films

- Visit [www.rivercityfilmfestival.com](http://www.rivercityfilmfestival.com).
- Click on the "Submissions" tap near the top of the page.
- Fill out electronic submission form, click send and mailing instructions will follow.

Guidelines:

- Submission cost: \$25 each.
- Deadline: Sept. 1.
- Accepted formats: DVD, miniDV, BetaSP.
- Film categories: short films, full-lengths, documentaries, animated (3D, traditional).
- Entries will not be returned. Do not send original master copies.

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