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CHARLOTTE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 PANELS FEATURING JOHNNY CASH ATTORNEY AND INDUSTRY EXPERTS

For Immediate Release - - Charlotte, N.C., 08.26.09 –The Charlotte Film Festival today announced its 2009 lineup of panels during the fourth annual festival Sept. 21-27. The panels -- covering topics from film financing to acting and law -- are from 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 at Queens University.

"We have truly created a mini film-education experience all in one day," says programming director Jennifer Bratyanski.

The panels are designed for filmmakers at all levels. Nashville Attorney Robert Sullivan, who represented Johnny Cash's estate, will lead a legal panel that discusses clearance rights for music and personalities. Film Producer Lovinder Gil will host a two-hour workshop on creating a business plan to present to potential investors.

Other highlights include a hands-on three-part Final Cut Pro workshop presented in the Queens University Mac Lab by Apple expert Francis Shepherd, and a RED camera demonstration led by filmmaker Steve Saxon who is known for his work with National Geographic, the History Channel and BBC.

Charlotte Film Festival Director Louis Gurgitano will moderate a documentary filmmaking panel followed by a business planning and goal setting workshop led by local life coach Dawn Leitner.

Finally, for the actors out there: "Improv on the Fly," led by improv master and teacher Dr. M. Doc Geressy will cover creating memorable characters on the fly. Voiceover expert Gabrielle Nistico will give tips on how to break into the business and succeed.

Prices for panels range from \$15 - \$100. Participants can meet and mingle with presenters during a reception at the end of the day. Purchase tickets online. Seating is limited so reserve them now at our new website: www.charlottefilmfestival.org.

The Charlotte Film Festival is a project of Indie Film Force, a non-profit organization committed to showcasing great storytelling, and featuring and debuting groundbreaking independent films. The festival is determined to bringing exposure to undiscovered talent and great cinema to Charlotte and combining the experience with education.

PANELS

Improv on the Fly – Hands on Acting Workshop

Come learn advanced improv techniques, how to create memorable characters on the fly, the seriousness of comedy, and how to discover outrageous, believable scenarios. Workshop led by Dr. M. Doc Geressy, who has been working with improv troupes and teaching improv for more than a decade.

Panelist/Presenter: Dr. M. Doc Geressy

Time: 3 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Room: Sykes 226 (seating limit 46)

Cost: \$15

All About Final Cut Express; 3-Session Workshop and Lab

Discover the intuitive power of new creative tools designed expressly for Final Cut Pro editors during this hands-on 3-part workshop. Rapidly move through editing to motion graphics, audio editing and mixing, color grading, and delivery using Final Cut Studio 2. The workshop is led by Francis Shepherd, a Senior Systems Engineer with Apple Computer. (Must attend all three. Each session approximately one hour)

Part One: Learn the intro and basics of Final Cut Pro.
Part Two: Learn an overview of programs Color and Soundtrack.
Part Three: Take part in a focused review on Motion
Presenter: Francis Shepherd
Time: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Room: Dana 110 Mac Lab (seating limit 20)
Cost: \$100 to attend all three. (Cannot be bought separately)

RED Camera Demonstration

Thinking about using the RED camera for your next project? Come hear from Steve Saxon of SaxtonHD and other DPs and producers who have used the RED camera in their films. See a live demo and get your questions answered.

Presenter: Steve Saxon
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Room: Sykes 226 (seating limit 46)
Cost: \$15

How to Start, Accelerate, and Dominate as a Voiceover Artist

This workshop teaches industry basics of what Voiceover is and how to prepare for a career in the field. Discover how to operate your own successful business and the tools for marketing (studio, website, demos). Learn the actual do's and don'ts for building an industry-ready demo, and how to find work in the Voiceover industry. Taught by master coach Gabrielle Nistico, Operations Director for VoiceHunter.com and VP of VOCareer.com.

Presenter: Gabrielle Nistico
Time: 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Room: Sykes 226 (seating limit 46)
Cost: \$15

Documentary Filmmaking – Capture Life as it Happens

Documentary filmmaking is a challenging and unpredictable art form. Come hear from the DP's of different CFF documentaries about how they captured life as it happened and went on to make award-winning documentaries. This panel is moderated by festival director and documentary filmmaker Louis Gurgitano.

Moderator: Louis Gurgitano
Time: 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Room: Sykes 220 (seating limit 32)
Cost: \$15

Filmmaking & the Law

What is the role of your attorney in a film? How do rights clearances work when it comes to music and personalities? Panelists include Robert Sullivan with Loeb & Loeb of Nashville among others.

Panelist: Robert Sullivan, Loeb & Loeb
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Room: Sykes 220 (seating limit 32)
Cost: \$15

Film Financing Fundamentals Workshop

During this introduction to independent feature film financing, you will take part in discussions on different ways to finance a feature film with a primary focus on investor financing. We will discuss how to put together a film financing business plan and what

to include in it. We will also talk about federal and state film incentives and how they can help you raise money for your film. Additional topics include private placement, memorandums, the flow of money, projecting investor ROI, setting up a corporate entity, and realistic budgeting.

Presenter: Lovinder Gil
Time: 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Room: Sykes 220 (seating limit 32)
Cost: \$50

Organize Your Life to Achieve Your Dreams

Are you finding that life is getting in the way of pursuing your dreams as a filmmaker? If so, this workshop with professional coach Dawn Leitner will help you recognize your obstacles and clarify your path to success. This is good for anyone who is trying to find focus so they can achieve their dreams.

Presenter: Dawn Leitner.
Time: 4:30 p.m. – 5:45p.m.
Room: Dana 110 Mac Lab (seating limit 20)
Cost: \$15

For more information contact Victoria Cherrie, Public Relations Director at 704.615.4789 (m) or 704.342.5030 (o) or at vcherrie@charlottefilmfestival.org.

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