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Thunderbird International Film Festival is Almost Here

Filmmakers and Film Lovers Alike Prepare to Visit Cedar City

The fifth annual Thunderbird International Film Festival is rapidly approaching, and Cedar City is preparing to welcome visitors to the community. This year's festival will be held June 1-5 on the Southern Utah University campus.

Each summer during the first weekend of June, filmmakers and film lovers arrive in Cedar City to experience hospitality rarely found at other festivals. Morning and evening socials provide opportunities for guests to spend quality time with each other, forging lasting friendships and connections. A filmmaking forum held on the first evening of the festival offers local high school students the opportunity to visit with filmmakers and ask questions about their craft. These events invite interaction rarely found at other film festivals.

Local area businesses are being asked to help welcome incoming visitors and filmmakers and provide sponsorship to support the festival's efforts in emphasizing family-friendly films. This niche in the festival industry compliments the local community and is unique to the Thunderbird Festival.

"Our 5th anniversary is going to be the best year ever!" said Mariam Arthur, Founder and Executive Director of the Thunderbird Film Festival. "I have been working all year getting submissions and film industry professionals to attend. There could even be a few celebrities making surprise appearances."

Thunderbird is an authentic film festival showcasing student and independent films in a personal "down-home" atmosphere. The festival is comprised of three competitions: Thunderbird (main), High School, and Screenplay. The main competition divisions and categories are designed for fair adjudication. The Thunderbird Festival is hosted by Southern Utah University, and is supported by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Communication Department and the College of Performing and Visual Arts.

"We are excited about entering into this partnership with the film festival and the communications department, and we look forward to welcoming filmmakers to Cedar City," said Bill Byrnes, Dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts.

Look for event schedules for the fifth annual Thunderbird Film Festival coming soon. For more information about the Thunderbird International Film Festival please visit www.thunderbirdfilmfestival.suu.edu.

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