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Thunderbird International Film Festival Arriving at SUU

Independent Films Showcase a Variety of Social and Moral Issues

The fifth annual Thunderbird International Film Festival is almost here! This year's festival will be held June 1-5 on the Southern Utah University campus. Entries to this year's film festival are arriving from Italy, New York, Los Angeles, and many other locations across the country and around the world.

This year's festival showcases films focusing on a variety of moral and social issues and genres, including death and aging, criminal justice, world culture and international films, science-fiction, action, music, and the arts. Here is a preview of three of the films sure to delight festival-goers:

We will kick-off the festival on Wednesday night at 9p.m. with *Finding Home*, a film by Lawrence David Foldes and Victoria Paige Meyerink. This story features a young woman struggling to reclaim her life and love when she is forced to return to her grandmother's remote island inn and confront her family's troubled past. Filmed in spectacular locations along the coast of Maine, this is a powerful story of forgiveness, reconciliation, and redemption.

Calogero's Day Off, a film by Alex Melli, is the story of an aging factory worker who mysteriously takes a day off and rediscovers the world around him after nearly thirty years of perfect attendance. Filmed entirely in Torino, Italy, with an all-Italian cast, this inspirational story reminds us of the many ingredients found in a happy, flavorful life. *Calogero's Day Off* will be shown at the festival on Thursday, June 2 at 2 p.m.

Divining the Human by David Tlapek explores artist John Nava's innovative creation of tapestries for the newly constructed Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles. Consisting of 37 individual tapestries that range in height from 15 to 45 feet, Nava's work hangs on the interior walls of the new cathedral. *Divining the Human: The Cathedral Tapestries of John Nava* is a visually stunning insight into the connections between art, faith and the human community. *Divining the Human* will be showing at the festival on Saturday, June 4 at 11 a.m.

"We are excited during this fifth year to again have many interesting and fascinating films from all over," said Jon Smith, Communications Department Chair at SUU. "I'm looking forward to all the screenings to see what filmmakers are doing this year."

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.

Tickets are \$5 per screening block or \$2 for SUU students, or \$20 for a Moviemania pass, which grants access to all screenings and Thunderbird Festival events. For a complete screening schedule and more information about the Thunderbird International Film Festival please visit www.thunderbirdfilmfestival.suu.edu.

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