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OBITUARIES

DMV International Film Festival relocates to Gateway Arts District

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Photo courtesy of the DMV International Film Festival. The DMV International Film Festival will show "Chocolate City" on Friday.

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By Sarah Hainesworth

Have you ever heard of the Sundance Film Festival or Maryland Film Festival?

Most likely you have. The goal of those festivals isn't to showcase the work of locals but to simply showcase work.

In 2009, the DMV International Film Festival was created as a way to illustrate the talents of D.C., Maryland and Virginia filmmakers. Since its debut, the DMVIFF has become a highly anticipated event.

Filmmaker Tanecia Britt is responsible for shining the light on film in the DMV area. A graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, Britt has been in the business of making films and teaching filmmaking

to students for many years. During her career, Britt has worked with stars like Maino, Talib Kweli, Chyna Lane and Mark Ecko.

Britt described the film festival as a representation of "foreign and local films from the best of the best."

Filmmakers, who live in the DMV, were raised here, or shot their film in this region are welcome to apply.

International filmmakers are also invited to submit their work. Submissions must not have had any television or theatre play and must not have been broadcasted online. Submissions also should not have been shown at other D.C., Maryland, or Virginia area film festivals.

This year, the festival will be held June 15 - June 17 at the Gateway Arts Center in Brentwood. Previously, the festival was held at the Goethe-Institut in Washington, D.C.

Britt, who resides in Hyattsville, moved the festival from D.C. to Prince George's County because she wanted to showcase the arts scene that Maryland has to offer. Britt explained that the festival was held in D.C. starting at year one due to advice from her mentors. D.C. has an established arts community, but the move shows that Maryland does too.

"The focus is to pull artists of all kinds into the Gateway Arts District," Britt said.

Pierre Walcott, of The Creative Edge, explained that the organization was a part of Britt's decision to move the festival.

"We believe filmmakers are the ones who are going to tell us the story of where we live ... our community," Walcott said. "We care about building a creative industry in the county. We are here to support independent filmmakers."

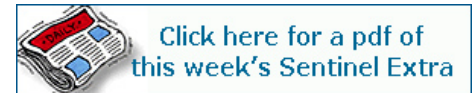
Through Creative Edge, Britt was able to partner with the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation and the Prince George's Art and Humanities Council, both of which were very welcoming of the idea of holding the DMV International Film Festival in Prince George's County.

Film festivities

This year's headlining events are the film screenings of "Chocolate City" and "Charlie Casanova" on Friday and "Tin Can Man" on Sunday.

"Tin Can Man" tells the terrifying story of what happens when you answer the door to a stranger. This film couples fear with claustrophobia and re-teaches viewers the lesson to not answer the door for a stranger. In a YouTube video featuring audience members at the Ireland showing, many agreed that they would not be able to sleep that night. For horror buffs, this may be the perfect movie for you.

"Chocolate City" is a piece on gentrification in Washington, D.C. It follows 400 families that have been displaced. This film doesn't try to shove down the viewer's throat one exact reason for gentrification but touches on various causes such as money, development and the growing population of Hispanics in Washington, D.C. The film comes from the point of view of Southeast



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residents who are losing their homes. Britt said this film will really hit close to home.

"Charlie Casanova" was also shown at last year's DMVIFF and has gained major popularity since the initial showing. Britt said she received email after email asking if "Charlie Casanova" would be shown again. In May, "Charlie Casanova" was released in theatres in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The movie focuses on Charlie, a sociopath who kills a girl in a hit-and-run accident and uses a deck of playing cards to guide his ensuing immoral decisions.

Another featured event is the "Actors Intensive" workshop from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday with casting director Winsome Sinclair. Sinclair has cast actors and actresses for movies such as "Waiting to Exhale," "Cadillac Records" and "Black Snake Moan." The workshop gives actors a venue to improve their auditioning and cold reading techniques. Actors will receive direct and detailed feedback from Sinclair.

The three day festival will feature 25 films. Tickets cost \$10 per day and can be purchased at the door or online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/245272.

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