The Daily Tar Heel

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Far from Hollywood's fantasy films, documentaries chronicle life's daily events and true personalities.

UNC Filmmakers Tell Stories With Documentaries

By Justin Winters

With Oscars being given out to feature films such as "American Beauty" and "The Matrix" earlier this week, a few of the golden guys were also given out to the best of a more realistic type of film – the documentary. If the talented documentary filmmakers that have been

popping up on campus recently are of any indication, a UNC student might be the lucky one to win the golden

statue in a few years.

Mahera Omar, a senior biology major whose documentary "A Lighter Shade of Crimson" was shown to UNC students Monday night, said that the fact that documentaries can be made about absolutely anything makes

Just before the showing, Omar stood outside the Union Auditorium hopefully awaiting the arrival of her audience. She admitted she was a little nervous but hoped that her film would prove as interesting to the audience as it was to

When Omar went to New York City during Fall Break, she ended up shooting some footage of the big city that crept its way into her short film.

"I ended up filming lots of things," she said. "One of the parts shows people in New York simply talking about how much they love New York."

Omar's documentary was part of a showing that paired her film with one other documentary, "Skittles," which showcased a collection of short comedic skits concocted by a group of UNC students.

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The Carolina Union Activities Board is hopeful that the

event will grow next year into a University festival con-centrated on a genre of films that UNC filmmakers said were set apart from the high-dollar movies that you might see on the big screen.

Andy Opel, a Ph.D. student in the School of Journalism

and Mass Communication who did documentary work while working on his master's degree at the University of



UNC Junior Grier Booker and Duke MBA Graduate student Robert Moody interview Lila in the Pit about joining the Hare Krishnas. The students are in the process of making a documentary about the religious group

Film Festival Tackles Issues, Showcases Talent

Duke University's DoubleTake Documentary Film Festival, now in its third year, exhibits films from regional to international.

The DoubleTake Film Festival will hit Durham next week with edgy documentaries and thought-provoking discussion on the issue of youth violence and the media.

In Durham's Carolina Theatre April 6-9, the festival presents an eclectic group of films and a dialogue regarding filmmaking and social issues. The showings include a mixture of classic and new documentaries, all of

which are rarely seen on a full screen.

From its conception three years ago, the festival presents thematically linked films.

This year explores the issue of youth, vio-lence and the media, following questions raised by last year's shooting at Columbine High School and the subsequent occurrences in the schools around the country

Nancy Buirski, director of the Double Take festival, said the festival elaborated on the issues these current events have brought to the forefront.

"There's no question that the Columbine issue has raised interest in (youth and the media) ... their reaction to the media has had a tremendous affect on their perspective on society, and society's perspective of them as well," she said.

To explore this theme, the DoubleTake festival presents different points of view of youth violence and the media. In addition to symposiums with young people and film-makers, the festival features a series of films entitled "Outside Looking In," which examines the relationship between youth and violence throughout childhood.

Double Take's modern theme has sparked an increased national interest in the festival. Cable channels HBO and MTV are co-sponsoring the event, reflecting a connection between film and television overlooked by most festivals.

"Unlike many festivals, documentary reflects the impact television has had on (the genre). HBO has been a leader in documentaries, and MTV is gaining a growing influence," Buirski said.

During the festival, filmmaker Sheila Nevins will receive Double Take's Industr Award for her documentaries aired on HBO.
Buirski approached MTV to co-sponsor

their event, given the channel's growing number of documentaries and their interest in youth culture.

"I love that this was a place for documentaries – it wasn't a market but a dialogue (about filmmaking and society)," said Lauren

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Do a Double Take: The DoubleTake Documentary Film Festival, April 6-9

Oday Enfaunt Sauvage. Fletcher Hall, 10:15 p.m.

A.K.A. Don Bonus. Carolina Theatre, 9:30 a.m.

In the Street, The Smell of Burning Ants; Little Fugitive. Carolina Theatre, 2 p.m. Matthew's Murder, Welcome to the Dollhouse. Fletcher Hall, 2-15 p.m.

thern Writers on Film

ously ske: A Tribute to Fred; Clear Pictures. Carolina The

2:30 p.m.
Two or Three Things but Hothing for Sure; William
Faulkner's Mississippi. Carolina Theatre, 5 p.m.
The Rough South of Larry Brown. Carolina Theatre, 7

Sunday Richard Wright: Black Boy. Carolina Theatre, 2:30 p.m.

d'une Dictature. Carolina Theatre, 7:45 p.m.

Well Founded Fear Fletcher Halt, 2:15 p.m. Over 36,000 Sold: A Thief Among the Angels. Carolina Theatre, 4 p.m. but, the day came: Centralia. Carolina Theatre, 4:45

sboro: An American Tragedy. Fletcher Hall, 5:15