

FILM FEST: to feature telling documentaries and gripping dramas, starting July 18 at Joy Theatre

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home as Morganton, Greensboro and Rocky Mount will be showing their films during the four-day festival.

As rising health care costs threaten to bankrupt the country, the one-hour-25-minute documentary "Money and Medicine" tackles the medical, ethical and financial challenges of containing runaway health care spending. In addition to illuminating the so-called waste and over-treatment that pervade the medical system, the documentary explores ways to reduce health care expenditures and improve the quality of medical care.

It investigates the controversy surrounding diagnostic testing and screening as well as the shocking treatment variations among patients receiving a variety of elective procedures. The film, by Roger Weisberg of Palisades, NY, will be the last to show on the night of Friday, July 20th.

"After I Pick the Fruit" is a documentary (1:33) that follows the lives of five immigrant farm worker women over a 10-year period. Cameras roll as they labor in the apple orchards of rural western New York, migrate seasonally to Florida, raise their families and try to hide from the Bush-era immigration raids that came after September 11, 2001.

Director Nancy Ghertner of Sodus, NY, says the film "will change the way you look at our national immigration problem." The film will be the first to show at the July 21st, Saturday matinee at 1 p.m.

Filmmaker Harvey Hubbell V, one of 35 million Americans who have dyslexia, explores the developmental reading disorder in his 81-minute documentary set to show at the Saturday matinee.

Rocky Mount filmmaker Ken Wyatt's nearly 40-minute-long documentary, "Colored Confederates: Myth or Matter of Fact?" is set to show on opening night of the festival,

Wednesday, July 18. The film hashes out the one-and-a-half-century-old debate on whether or not blacks fought for the South in the War Between the States.

"I do films that I want to see on the screen and (on topics) that people avoid talking about," said Wyatt, whose documentaries have been screened in more than 100 locations from film festivals to i-Max and drive-in theaters.

The former music critic got into filmmaking in the first half of the 1990s, producing music documentaries. He was quickly hooked.

"I can't remember when I didn't want to make films since then," he said. "I love it."

Wyatt's company, WyattWorks, has produced a number of award-winning documentaries, including "Pray for Eric" - an inside look at local reactions to "Olympic Park Bomber" Eric Rudolph, and "One of a Kind: Rufus Harley - the world's greatest jazz bagpiper".

"If the topic keeps calling you, you have to do it," he said, adding that people should be surprised at what they learn with "Colored Confederates" screening Wednesday. "I learned a lot."

Wyatt plans to attend the screening and hold a Question-and-Answer session after his film airs.

Producers and filmmakers of six movies are planning to attend the festival and offer Q&A sessions.

Filmmaker Rob Underhill of Raleigh is set to attend and lead a Q&A session after his hour-long documentary, "DAR HE: The Lynching of Emmett Till". One man performs the 36 roles in the film telling the true tragic story of Emmett Till, a man whose murder sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

"DAR HE: The Lynching of Emmett Till" has won Underhill nine best film and actor awards, six accolades for writing and other honors and six nominations in festivals

across the country and in Berlin so far. His films have been screened in festivals and locations around the globe.

"This is my first feature film release and first work on exposition at Real to Reel," Underhill said.

"I suppose you can call 'DAR HE' a semi-documentary. It opens with several minutes of authentic 1955 and 1956 footage of Money County Mississippi, shots of the town, uncle Mose's cabin (Emmett's uncle whom he was staying with when he was abducted), the trial, lots of amazing rare footage that was donated by Frank Beaman," he said.

"The film has experimental elements. Foremost obvious is the use of one actor, a very talented and versatile one, to play all of the 36 roles in the film, Mike Wiley," he added. "I first learned of Emmett Till when I was filming 'Empty Space' (2009) with Mike Wiley."

Wiley handed him a one-man-show script of "Dar He: The Story of Emmett Till" and he was "truly moved".

"I know about lynchings but I grew up in Michigan, and Emmett Till was not part of the curriculum. I knew I needed to affect others in the North and anywhere really where people were that did not know the story," he said.

Underhill has had more than 10 years production experience, directing, producing, writing and editing feature films, TV pilots, music videos, short-films, commercials and more.

Films begin at 7 p.m. each night and at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Ticket costs are \$8 per day or \$30 for a festival pass granting everyday access. Not all films may be appropriate for all ages.

An awards party will be held at Battleground Restaurant after the final film airs on Saturday night.

For a list of films, trailers and film synopses and for tickets to the festival, visit www.realtoreelfest.com

Some of the films are of a mature theme. Parents are encouraged to call the Arts Council with any questions or concerns.

Real to Reel is a competitive film festival with monetary awards presented to the winners in both the professional and amateur categories. The Best of Show Award, presented by The Broadcast Film Critics Association, will be \$1,000. The professional winners will receive a \$500 award presented by Cloninger and Neisler Attorneys, Clearbrook Advisory Services, LLC, Harris Funeral Home, and First National Bank.

Amateur winners will receive a \$250 award presented by Craig, Barry and Poston, PA, Dilling Heating Company, Kings Mountain Animal Hospital, Shelby Drug & Cleveland Compounding, Shelby Sleep Labs, Shelby Door, Kill the Flashover and Warlick and Hamrick Insurance.

The "People's Choice Award" will be presented by WGWG 88.3FM, The Range. Audience members will be allowed to vote on their favorite film each night with one winner selected at the end of the festival.

Returning again this year is the silent auction, which runs during the festival. Items such as scripts from movies, trips to famous movie locations, movie passes and lots of other fun and unique movie memorabilia will all be available to the highest bidder at the end of the festival.

VOLUNTEERS: needed to help family rebuild charred home

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two-year-old great granddaughter, Summer Bell, and Summer's mother, Angela Walker, before the fire. Powell awoke to intense heat at 5:30 a.m. June 27 and saw a wall of flames. The 60-year-old caretaker rushed every-

one outside to safety.

The fire is thought to have sparked from burning embers that remained in a charcoal grill used the night before for a cook-out celebrating Summer's second birthday.

The fire extended into the bedrooms at the back of the house, burned the deck away

and smoke-damaged the rest of the house. Perry Davis of the Cleveland County Fire Marshal's Office said the house can be rebuilt.

Because of heavy smoke and Williams' breathing problems, she has not been able to stay inside the house. The family was tarping the carport last week for tempo-

rary shelter.

"I've been praying a lot," said Kerry McKenzie, Williams' last surviving daughter, who has been working on clearing out the damaged furniture from the house. "Mama never thought she'd be homeless. She's worried."

Williams, who has raised her grandchildren since the 1998 murder of her daughter, Dawn Bell, had no insurance to cover the costs of repairs or lost items. Her social security check of \$600 only pays the very minimum of expenses. The house will have to be re-inspected once renovations are complete.

Alliance Bank & Trust is accepting donations to the Vivian Williams Help Fund at its branches in Kings Mountain, Shelby and Gastonia. The family will need furnishings, food and clothing once the house is repaired.

To find out how you can help, call Kerry McKenzie at 704-905-7908.



The undamaged portion of a home at 131 Kristie Lane that was charred by fire June 27.

FAMILY: mourns loss of National Guard Airman Robbie Cannon

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doing. He said that although "Robbie's" job took him away from his family often, he always communicated with them in emails and never forgot holidays and birthdays.

"We communicated quite well and he understood the partnership we had in raising the children," said Melanie Russ Cannon, his wife of 22 years. "Our level of trust was great and grew over time, enabling the family to weather the challenges of separation heartily, whenever it occurred."

Mrs. Cannon, son, Alex, 17, and daughter, Madeline, 15, adapted to the travel and work schedule, knowing it was for the greater good of the family and the country, the family said.

"He was proud of his job and he was good at it. We

were proud of him as he attained a designation as an aviator," said Cannon's stepmother, Sandra Whetstone Russ.

Cannon served six terms of 30-120 days in Afghanistan. He had flown to Kuwait and into the Baghdad International Airport about 30 times and to a majority of all the countries of the world. He spent the past Christmas on a 120-day mission to Afghanistan.

As they shared family pictures at their home, Jim and Sandra Russ tearfully remembered the joyful times. "We didn't see Robbie in uniform, he was always in casual wear, doing and enjoying things with the children."

Their grandson Alex was involved in sports and their granddaughter Madeline was in Girl Scouts and loved to ride horses. The family is ac-

tive in Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte.

Sgt. Cannon joined the Air National Guard shortly after graduating from Harding High School in Charlotte. Several years later, he met his wife of 22 years through a mutual acquaintance. He is the son of Robert Cannon of Charlotte and the late Ruby Cannon and has a sister, Teresa Cannon Wrenn of Charlotte, a niece, Stephanie Fowler of Aiken, SC and a nephew, Richie Fowler of Charlotte.

Melanie Russ Cannon is also the daughter of Alice Whechel of Gaffney, SC and stepdaughter of Rick Whechel. She has a step-sister, Jennifer Nix and a step-brother, Michael Nix, both of Gaffney. She is employed as a supervisor at Mecklenburg Mental Health Department. She is a graduate of Burns High in Cleveland

County and, in 1986, graduated from East Carolina University.

Alex Cannon is a rising senior at East Mecklenburg High School. Madeline Cannon is a rising sophomore at EMHS.

The four families of deceased airmen gathered Monday night at Air National Guard at Charlotte's Douglas International Airport where the 447th Airlift Wing is based. On Tuesday morning a private memorial service was held at the air base.

A Celebration of Life Service for M/Sgt. Cannon will be scheduled at Carmel Baptist Church in Charlotte where he was a member.

LOVED ONES: gather to remember four airmen who died fighting wildfires in S. Dakota

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"I am humbled to be here today," she said. "They were true heroes and great sons of North Carolina. Time after time they strapped themselves into their aircraft to protect people they didn't know. We can't bring them back, but as a state and a people we can remember them."

Referring to the four fliers, Perdue also quoted a line from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

"They gave their last full measure of devotion," she said. Joining officials at the memorial were flight crew members from other Air National Guard units based as far away as California, Texas, Arkansas, Illinois, and Indiana.

To a man, McCormick, David, Mikeal, and Cannon were remembered as loyal sons, husbands, fathers, and soldiers. Illustrating this, a video of photographs showing each man with his family and on duty was displayed on a large screen in the hangar where the ceremony took place. The looks of joy on each one's face as he held his wife or child, or climbed into a C-130 for action spoke volumes about their character.

After Gov. Perdue presented family members of the crewmen with state flags, everyone went outdoors to the 145th's Memorial Mall for prayers, scripture reading, and the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Charlotte Fire Department pipers.

An especially moving moment came when two C-130 aircraft flew out of the clouds and low over the field with one banking sharply to the side and upward in the "missing man" formation. A 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps" concluded an event that deeply touched everyone present and really drove home the point of how close the bond between the 1500 members of the 145th MAW really is and how important, and sometimes perilous, the job they do can be.

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