

News-Times Archives

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

The article you requested is displayed below.

Local talent shines at Kent film festival

Author(s): Erik Ofgang SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-TIMES

Date: April 11, 2006

Section: Local

Article ID: story82343

Zero! That's how much money it cost Tim Salem, assistant principal at Danbury High School, Danbury High senior Brian Simalchik and a team of students to make a documentary film "The Promise," which is about genocide in the **Darfur** region of Sudan.

But their investment of time and effort earned the film the award for best student documentary at last month's Kent Film Festival.

Simalchik and Salem explained that the purpose of their film was never to win awards but to raise awareness of events in **Darfur**.

But "we realized that this was an opportunity to appeal to a wider demographic," Salem said of what prompted students to submit the film to the festival.

The film was one of 35 shown during the festival's debut last month. Many of the films were the work of local talent.

The Danbury parking garage and train station could be seen in the opening sequence of Steven Snow's "Fall to the Sun," a moving, 15-minute short that tells the story of a son's reaction to the death of the father who abandoned him as a child.

Like Simalchik and Salem, Snow's film was made on a shoestring budget. Snow, who is currently moving from Kent to Bethel, explained that the cast and crew were willing to work for free and that the only thing he paid for was food and their gas money to get to the locations.

Frank Galterio, who organized the festival with his wife, Patrice, was ecstatic about the festival's debut. "It turned out a hundred times better than I expected it to," said Galterio. Four hundred tickets were sold

for the two-day event.

The Galterios are already planning next year's festival, which they says will be expanded to a week-long event that will show more films. They also plan to organize workshops for the region's filmmakers at local libraries so they can learn from each other and share resources.

Rick Levine, an award-winning director of commercials, gave a workshop at the festival about creating emotion and telling a story in 60 seconds or less.

He called the Galterios' efforts to create a festival "extremely daring and brave," adding, "I was shocked there was such a large turnout."

Frank and Patrice Galterio run a business, Galterio Design and Photo. Frank does the photography for the business and makes films as a hobby.

He broached the idea of the festival to his wife and she agreed to give it a try. They organized the festival in a relatively short time, beginning last November.

The Kent festival is the third film festival in the region. It joins the Bethel film festival and the Western Connecticut State University film and video festival.

ÿ

For information about the Kent Film Festival, visit www.kentfilmfestival.org.

To view "The Promise," visit www.bmstct.com/ThePromise.htm.

Find out more about Steven Snow's work by visiting his Web site, www.dv-arts.com

Technical problems: If you have a technical problem with your account please e-mail newslibrary@newsbank.com.

Copyright, 2006, The News-Times (Danbury, CT)