

Tallahatchie Life & Style



Students from Sunflower County set up and learn to use production equipment during the 2018 young filmmakers' workshop. (Photo special to The Sun-Sentinel)

Late-June Summer workshop to help Delta students make their own films

By **MONICA LAND**
Special to The Sun-Sentinel

SUMNER — After being sidelined by COVID-19 in 2020 like many other summer programs, a free young filmmakers' workshop, designed to help high school students investigate and document their own video stories, is recruiting for their 2021 class. The Sunflower County Film Academy (SCFA) will conduct a two-week workshop June 21 through July 2 at the Emmett Till Interpretive Center (ETIC) in Sumner. A public screening of their final class film will be held across the street at the Tallahatchie County Courthouse at a later date.

Professional filmmakers, Dr. Pablo Correa, Kyle Jones and Sunflower County native Robert "R.J." Fitzpatrick will work with students as instructors and technical advisors during video shoots.

Lunch and snacks will be provided, and the workshop will be conducted in tandem with federal and state COVID-19 restrictions. Hand sanitizer and masks will be on site and daily temperature checks will be taken by staff.

Dr. Brian Graves, who specializes in production and documentary storytelling as an associate professor of Media and Technology at Florida State University, will also be on hand as a volunteer instructor.

The SCFA launched in 2018 and is part of the multi-modal community driven project, Fannie Lou Hamer's America. The comprehensive project, dedicated to the late civil rights icon and Sunflower County native, features a K-12 digital curriculum, an online resource and a

new and original documentary slated for broadcast in early 2022. Correa and Fitzpatrick were videographers for the film.

Correa, who is currently the assistant professor and program director for Digital Media and Communication at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, Connecticut, also taught Media Techniques and Single Cam Video Production at Florida State University. Correa said this workshop allows Delta students to share their vision, voice and creativity with others through their films.

"This is really such a unique opportunity for students to learn professional filmmaking skills combined with the civil rights history of the Delta," he said. "Our inaugural workshop was quite successful with student work being premiered at both the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, and Crossroads Film Festival in Mississippi."

The SCFA works with 15 students from various high schools to plan, shoot and edit their own films using professional grade equipment and utilizing primary source research and oral histories.

The 2018 class hosted students from Sunflower, Bolivar and Washington counties. This year enrollment will focus on students from Tallahatchie County. Applications are on the website.

The workshop also includes classroom discussions about racial equity and healing and modern-day injustices as it relates to them and their family history.

"We strive to provide the best creative and professional workspace for the students while they learn throughout the workshop," said Fitz-

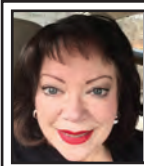
patrick, who mentors teens on civil rights history in the Delta. "This allows them to fully immerse themselves into their film projects giving them the experience and knowledge they need to tell their stories. So, it's a great opportunity that will inspire them and reassure them that anything is possible."

Workshop organizers partnered with ETIC and its executive director, Patrick Weems, on this effort because they often host programs for young people, and their goal is to also mentor teens using the arts and storytelling, while helping to "process past pain and imagine new futures moving forward," said Weems.

Correa said the SCFA also strives to interest more minorities in the digital arts field.

"The digital media and communication field lacks minority representation in creating and delivering media messages," Correa said, "which often results in companies not reflecting the views of our diverse population or unintentionally offending diverse populations. One of our goals with the workshop is to equip students with the knowledge and self-efficacy to pursue a career in the digital arts field and through connections with professors such as myself and Dr. Graves, to help them navigate the road to college."

Funding for the Sunflower County Film Academy was provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area, Phil Hardin Foundation, C Spire Foundation, the Mississippi Humanities Council, ATMOS Energy, Music Studio of Marin and HOPE Enterprises and Credit Union.



Bless Your Heart

By **CONNIE BUNCH**

I'll never eat a Hershey Kiss or chocolate bar the same way as I did before!

Milton Hershey changed the way we eat chocolate!

When Gary said we were going to Hershey, Pennsylvania, I had no idea what a treat (no pun intended) it would be. We learned so much about the history of chocolate, who Mr. Hershey was, and how he built a town around his factories.

Milton was the only surviving child of "Fanny" Gravely and Henry Hershey. From his Mennonite mother, Milton got his hard work ethic, and from his father, who was a dreamer and unsuccessful entrepreneur, he got his ideas.

He quit school around the age of 14 and began working for a candymaker learning the business. With \$150 borrowed from his aunt, Milton went into candymaking himself. He failed.

Joining his father in Denver, Milton began working for another confectioner. Not making chocolate, but caramels. He found out adding fresh milk could be used to make it delicious!

Hershey returned to New York and Chicago to try again

— and failed two more times. He returned home to Lancaster to try again — and this time met success.

He became interested in chocolate making and started the Hershey chocolate company. While the Swiss were making chocolate candies, he wanted to invent a new formula to make mass-produced milk chocolate and overcome the problem of mixing oil and milk with the cocoa to make it smooth.

He believed in his dream. He sold his caramel company for an amazing \$1 million and put everything into building a huge chocolate candymaking factory in Derry Church. 1905.

Hershey wanted to build an ideal community around his factories for his workers. He built schools, churches, places to play sports and a trolley for his workers to get to the factory. He even built houses costing around \$1,000 or \$1,200 at that time and sold them to his employees at cost. He and his wife founded an orphanage and school for boys, and then one for girls. Working into his 80s, he continued to make philanthropic changes to the world around him.

During one of the building endeavors, Mr. Hershey is said to have gone to a worksite and the excited foreman showed him a new dirt-mov-

ing machine they were using.

"It does the work of 40 men," he said. This was the depression. Hershey said, "Sell the machine and hire 40 men." (Information from "www.biography.com," tours, and displays at Hershey Center)

Milton Hershey's father had told him, "Always be looking for the next best thing."

It worked for Mr. Hershey! Are you looking for the "next best thing" spiritually?

The Bible tells us in Matthew 13:44-46 that being in the Kingdom of God is the eternal best thing!

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

The best thing! When you find Jesus Christ and understand who He is, what He did for you and all mankind, you know in your spirit that you have found your heart's desire!

Invest all you have, all you are, and all you will be in your relationship with Christ Jesus! He is always the best thing!

Area Events

Batesville

The Bill Lipscomb 17th annual Memorial Rodeo will be held at Batesville Civic Center Saturday, June 12. There will be two performances. The first show begins at 1 p.m.; the second show begins at 7:30 p.m.

General admission for adults is \$17; for children 4-10, it is \$13; and children 3 and under are free.

Tickets are available at the box office, by telephone at 662-563-1392 or www.batesvilleciviccenter.ms.com.

Plaza Cinema

1301 C Sunset Drive, Grenada

Friday, May 28 - Thursday, June 3

A Quiet Place Part 2 (PG-13)
Cruella (PG-13)
Spiral:Saw (R)
Godzilla vs Kong (PG13)

FREE SMALL POPCORN WITH ALL TICKETS!
TUESDAY NIGHTS ALL SEATS \$6

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www.PlazaCinemaGrenada.com

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