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Stockton plays bigger role in San Joaquin film fest

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By **Lori Gilbert**
Record Staff Writer
May 14, 2009 6:00 AM

It's called the San Joaquin International Film Festival and boasts of having 120 films representing 40 countries, but there's more of Stockton in the second rendition of the event than being the city in which the films will roll.

Stockton native Jason Turner, who now lives in Portland, Ore., shows "Veer," his documentary about the bicycle culture, on Saturday. University of the Pacific graduate Doris Dorrie, a director in Germany, brings her feature film, "Cherry Blossoms," on May 21.

And Stockton's Wings of Healing Christian Center was the location of a scene in "Fade Into Me," an eight-minute, 12-second short film by Modesto's Anthony Hunt that debuts Friday at the Matinee Movie Lounge as part of Power of Love II, a shorts program of seven stories about love and power.

"It's a big deal in a lot of ways," Hunt said of premiering his movie here. "Validation is one. And, personally, because of my friends' passing. This was the last thing he worked on."

Hunt's friend, Tom Massey, was killed when his father, who was depressed about his financial situation, shot and killed Massey and his himself. He also injured Massey's mother.

Before his death, Massey was able to see the finished product. It was filmed in late August and editing took about a month and half.

The project began 10 years earlier, though.

That's when Hunt, 38, and Massey, who'd been friends since high school, wrote a script called "Someday," based on the lyrics of a song called "Ctrl Alt Del" by the United Kingdom-based band Silverman.

The film was never made, though.

"Last year a friend of mine made a film, and I felt if he can do it, so can I," said Hunt, who supports himself working at Modesto's Apple Store. "I looked for something I'd created and found that one. We made changes to the title and tweaked the script."

"Fade Into Me," the story of a woman who loses her husband and can't imagine living without him, was born. There's no dialogue, but the story is told through action and the playing of "Ctrl Alt Del" with its haunting chorus:

"Oh my love has seen a lot of change

"I had a life before you, now I must learn to live again

"Oh my love, has felt a lot of pain

"I never loved before you, will I ever love again?"

"If you listen to the lyrics of the song, it carries (the story) through," Hunt said.

In those eight minutes, Hunt tells the story of a couple's love, the grief the woman experiences at his loss, her believing the only way to be happy is to end her life, and his return from the beyond to convince her otherwise.

"The special effects are unique, with black and white and color usage and editing," said Kaira (who just goes by one name), who plays the female lead.

As with Hunt, "Fade Into Me" is Kaira's debut film.

She quit her job in the high-tech industry two years ago after taking acting classes and got jobs doing voice-over work, but this is her first appearance in front of the cameras.

"I consider myself lucky," Kaira said. "The first film I did gets into a festival."

Hunt, who said he made the film for about \$500, feels pride.




He was told by festival organizers his film was selected from a field of 2,500 based on quality, local production and theme.

Hunt, whose dream is to be a film director or editor, never has had the money to attend film school. His first venture into entertainment came when he was 18 and he and Massey and other friends produced a public-access comedy for a year.

"Throughout the years we did our own little shorts. Thank God YouTube came around," Hunt said.

Now, he has a chance to see his short, not on a computer screen, but on the big screen.

Contact reporter Lori Gilbert at (209) 546-8284 or lgilbert@recordnet.com.

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San Joaquin International Film Festival BLOG

Today

Bob Hope Theatre

6 p.m.: Red carpet and ribbon cutting

7 p.m.: Opening night celebration gala; Discovery Award to actor Francisco Mistichelli; "Marcello Marcello"

9:30 p.m.: Opening night party

Friday

Stockton Empire Theatre

6 p.m.: Spirit of Humanity Award to Kimberlee Bassford; "Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority"

8:30 p.m.: "El Brindis" (To Life)

Matinee Movie Lounge

6 p.m.: Animania

8:30 p.m.: Power of Love II

Saturday

The Haggin Museum

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1:30 p.m.: Animania Family Festival

Stockton Empire Theatre

1 p.m.: "Goodnight, Irene"

4 p.m.: "Discovery"

6:30 p.m.: El Dorado Award to Bill Plympton; "Idiots and Angels"

9 p.m.: "Live, Love, Laugh!"

Sunday

Matinee Movie Lounge

10 a.m.: Filmmakers and VIP brunch; Billy Plympton master class

Stockton Empire Theatre

1 p.m.: "Kids of All Ages"

3:30 p.m.: "Universalove"

6 p.m.: "Lullabye Before I Wake"

9 p.m.: "Passionate Trouble"

Matinee Movie Lounge

4:30 p.m.: Power of Love

6:30 p.m.: "Revolution"

9 p.m.: "Finding Wonderland"

Monday

Stockton Empire Theatre

6:15 p.m.: "Rite of Passage"

8:30 p.m.: "Donkey in Lahore"

Matinee Movie Lounge

5:30 p.m.: "Personality"

7:30 p.m.: "True Stories"

9:30 p.m.: "Revolution"

Tuesday

Stockton Empire Theatre

6 p.m.: "Katrina's Children"

8 p.m.: "Baler"

Matinee Movie Lounge

6 p.m.: Film+Art+Lab

8 p.m.: Animania II

Wednesday

Stockton Empire Theatre

5:30 p.m.: "1,000 Journals"

7:30 p.m.: "The Young Romantic"

9:30 p.m.: Power of Love II

Matinee Movie Lounge

5:30 p.m.: "Idiots and Angels"

7:30 p.m.: An Evening with Kimuak

Thursday, May 21

Stockton Empire Theatre

6 p.m.: "Megunica"

8 p.m.: Homecoming spotlight: "Cherry Blossoms"

Matinee Movie Lounge

6 p.m.: "Discovery"

8 p.m.: "Live, Love, Laugh"

Friday, May 22

Stockton Empire Theatre

4 p.m.: "Marta and Her Flying Grandfather"

6 p.m.: Miracle Mile Spotlight "D Tour"

8:30 p.m.: Members night film: "The Clown and the Fuhrer"

Matinee Movie Lounge

4 p.m.: Animania

6 p.m.: Animania II

8 p.m.: "Rite of Passage"

Saturday, May 23

Faye Spanos Concert Hall

2 p.m.: "Sitra Sings the Blues"

4 p.m.: Homecoming spotlight: "Veer"

6:30 p.m.: Red carpet welcome

7:30 p.m.: Closing night celebration gala; Independent Award to director Jon Gunn; "Like Dandelion Dust"

Centrale Kitchen and Bar

9:45 p.m.: Closing night party

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