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Citizen Jane Film Fest Among ‘Coolest’ in World

Moviemaker Magazine today named Citizen Jane Film Festival at Stephens College one of the “25 Coolest Film Festivals in the World.”

“We’re thrilled to be included on this list,” said Paula Elias, director of Citizen Jane Institute at Stephens College. “We’ve worked really hard over the years to strategically build our audiences while also keeping our venues intimate and welcoming for both visiting filmmakers and attendees. It’s great to receive outside recognition.”

Moviemaker Magazine is a leading resource on the art and business of movies and the world’s most widely read independent film magazine. Each year, a panel of industry experts crafts the list of film festivals that provide innovative programing alongside film screenings.

Citizen Jane is one of a handful of festivals that exclusively showcases films made by women. It opens with a summit, where industry leaders brainstorm ways to boost the number of women working in the industry, and includes Q&As with filmmakers throughout the weekend.

“Citizen Jane is more than a festival,” said Kerri Yost, associate professor of digital film and one of the festival’s co-founders. “It’s an artist’s retreat where women are heard and celebrated.”

Passes are now on sale for the eighth annual CJFF, set for Oct. 22-25 at venues around campus and in the community. This year’s opening night film, “Frame by Frame,” follows four Afghan photojournalists documenting the Taliban’s impact on their country. The film was directed and produced by University of Missouri alumna Mo Scarpelli and Alexandria Bombach. The complete line-up of documentaries, fiction features and short films will be announced Sept. 18 at citizenjanefilm.org. The site also includes online ticket sales, travel information and additional resources.

The Citizen Jane Film Festival began in 2008 to give female filmmakers the opportunity to screen their films and discuss inequities in the film and television industry. It has since grown to become the Citizen Jane Institute at Stephens College and includes screenings and lectures throughout the year, as well as a camp for middle and high school girls in the summer.