

SPED 861 201: FOCUS Film Festival (Fall 2008 CSU Chico)

Instructor:

Mary Ann Weston

Email: maweston@farnorthernrc.org

Phone: 222-4791 x3430 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F)

Office Hours:

Available by phone and email only

Class Meeting:

October 22, Bell Memorial Auditorium, Chico and
one class meeting, date to be announced

Attendance and Assignments:

You must complete 15 hours of study for one Academic Unit.
To complete this course, you will:

1. attend at least three films from the FOCUS 2008, Chico program. You may substitute films that have been previously screened at FOCUS Film Festival, with the instructor's permission, to view at home
2. complete a reaction survey
3. create a lesson plan that incorporates disability awareness, cultural diversity, or relationship or aging related issues in your classroom
4. attend a class where you will briefly present and discuss your lesson plan. This class may be selected from a list of dates to be announced later

Festival admission will be waived for students enrolled in this class. A screening schedule and description of the films follows.

Objective:

This course explores documentary and feature films which "focus" on the complexity of the human experience: relationships, aging, disability, culture, lifestyle, and more. Our goal is to enlighten and inspire our community by featuring quality films which offer insight into the lives of people from all walks of life. By showing a broad range of human experience, we believe that we are closing the gap in perception, proving that we are more alike than we are different. See our website for more information: www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival.

Grading:

C/NC

Website:

www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival

FOCUS 2008 Film Festival, Bell Memorial Auditorium, Chico***October 22, 2008 Screening Schedule (film descriptions follow):***

Some films are followed by QA sessions with the filmmaker, experts in the field of study, or others associated with the film in order to enhance and/or contrast the perspective presented in the film.

- 10:00 AM: Diana & Kathy: Body & Soul (40 minutes)
- 11:00 AM: Including Samuel (58 minutes)
- 12:15 PM: Today's Man (55 minutes)
- 1:30 PM: Crazy Sexy Cancer (90 minutes)
- 3:30 PM: First Annual Filmmakers' Competition (about 3 hours)
- 7:00 PM: The Way Bobby Sees It (59 minutes + QA)

Diana & Kathy: Body & Soul

Director/Cinematographer/Producer: Alice Elliott; Co-Producer: Simone Pero Audi; Additional Cinematography: Craig Lindvahl and Liz Gawne; Editor: Rose Rosenblatt; Original music: Rick Baitz; Cast: Diana Braun and Kathy Conour

Kathy and Diana met at a sheltered workshop three decades ago and vowed to fight to live independent lives. Today, they are well established as dynamic activists in the disability movement.

Including Samuel

Director/Producer: Dan Habib

Before his son, Samuel, was diagnosed with a disability, Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. This film honestly chronicles the family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives.

Today's Man

Director: Lizzie Gottlieb; Producers: Mitchell Lemsky, Michael Young, Lizzie Gottlieb; Editor: Ben Forgash; Co-producers: Jen Smal, Ben Forgash; Photography: Michael Young, Mitchell Lemsky; Music: Beth Urdang

Today's Man follows Nicky Gottlieb, a man with Asperger syndrome, as he struggles to leave the safety of his family's home and the comfort of his favorite TV shows in order to find a job and an apartment.

Crazy Sexy Cancer

Author/Filmmaker/Cancer Cowgirl: Kris Carr; Producer/Editor/Cinematographer: Brian Fassett; Producer: Beth Nathanson; Co-Producer: Jessica Wolfson; Animator/Artist: Lorraine Mullens; Associate Producers: Lisa Cocciardi and David Zellerford; Editor: Pagan Harleman

Crazy Sexy Cancer is more than a film, it's an attitude! It's about rising to the challenge of life, and no matter what, refusing to give up who you are at your core. Funny, frightening, joyous, and outrageous! If you are a "crazy cancer cowgirl or chap," join us after the film for a free copy of Kris Carr's book, *Crazy Sexy Cancer Tips*.

First Annual Filmmakers' Competition and Awards Ceremony

Join us for the Short Film Competition: we're screening the five winning entries including Best of Festival, Best of Category (Drama, Documentary, and Experimental), Spirit of the Festival, and Audience Award. Meet the winning directors at a reception immediately following.

The Way Bobby Sees It

Filmmakers: Wendy Todd and Jason Watkins

Meet Bobby McMullen who is training for the most difficult downhill mountain bike course in the country: the Downieville classic. In spite of challenges that would take most people out, Bobby is a passionate extreme sport competitor. He is a tenacious adrenaline junkie who competes with fully able racers and beats them.

Filmmakers Wendy Todd and Jason Watkins and downhill racing legend Bobby McMullen will answer questions and sign posters following the screening.