

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
August 30, 2010



FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL

exploring the complexity of the human experience

Student Workshops

This year, FOCUS Film Festival collaborated with a visiting filmmaker, Director Roger Ross Williams, to offer workshops to students considering a career in some aspect of filmmaking or communications. This one-hour forum provides an opportunity to meet successful, working filmmakers to discuss the craft of storytelling and prospects of working in the industry. Students attend the Festival screening and meet the director afterward in a small and informal setting. The film is screening on October 14 at 10:00 AM.

Roger Ross Williams is a documentary, television news, and entertainment director, producer and writer.

He produced and directed *Music by Prudence*, which won the 2010 Academy Award for Best Documentary (Short Subject). He has worked for ABC News, NBC News, MSNBC, BBC, CNN and PBS.

He has produced shows for ABC, CBS, Comedy Central, Food Network, Sundance Channel, TLC, VH1 and Michael Moore's Emmy Award winning series *TV Nation*. He has directed prime-time reality shows for ABC and CBS, and produced a documentary series for Discovery Networks and a lifestyle series for Scripts Networks.

About the Film

Music by Prudence, a film by Roger Ross Williams, is the winner of the 2010 Academy Award in the category of Documentary: Short Subject. Produced by iThemba Productions and Elinor Burkett, the 33-minute documentary stars Prudence Mabhena, a talented young woman from Zimbabwe suffering from arthrogryphosis, a rare disorder that severely deforms the joints of the body. Despite overwhelming odds, Prudence finds a home to thrive in, and an astounding talent to share with the world. <http://www.musicbyprudence.com/>



Roger Ross Williams

Special Session Course

SPED 861 201

FOCUS Film Festival offers academic credit through California State University's Center for Regional and Continuing Education. Register through the Center by calling 530-898-6105 or visit www.rce.csuchico.edu at the Festival. Course fees are \$60 for one unit.

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Community Workshops



Hilari Scarl



CJ Jones



TL Forsberg

Voicing for Deaf Theater For Advanced Sign Interpreters

This workshop offers a hands-on approach to improve voicing skills by using techniques developed by the National Theatre of the Deaf. Deaf actors have a rich and inspiring history. Their work is made accessible to hearing audiences through “voice over” for film and television and “voicing” actors for stage. Unfortunately, most deaf actors are at a disadvantage by having their voices chosen for them by hearing directors who must decide between hiring experienced actors with no knowledge of ASL or interpreters who don’t have any acting or voice over training. Many deaf actors become frustrated when they can’t connect with their hearing audiences due to poor voicing techniques, and don’t have the ability to give notes or feedback.

Director **Hilari Scarl** leads the group with Stars **CJ Jones** and **TL Forsberg**

Limited to 20 participants. Register by October 6, \$20 (includes .2 CEUs). Questions, contact Tina Cook, NorCal Services for Deaf & Hard of Hearing, tcook@norcalcenter.org

Storytelling For Actors

Theatre in the Now, an integrated troupe of actors with and without disabilities, hosts this free workshop for actors with and without disabilities. The emphasis is on non-verbal storytelling focusing on individual expression with face and hands. By invitation only.

CJ Jones leads the workshop with TL Forsberg.

This activity is sponsored by California Arts Council and National Arts and Disability Center at the University of California, Los Angeles

For more information go to: www.farnorthernrc.org/FOCUSFilmFestival
or contact Mary Ann Weston, 221-9530