

MISSOURI NEWS

Welcome to the Weekly Wrap-Up, the weekly e-newsletter produced by the Missouri Film Office. Here you'll get the latest updates on film and video production in Missouri. **Congrats to Adam Hackbarth, Matt Darst and Cat Cacciatore** for correctly answering the questions in the year-end Weekly Wrap-Up contest. They each win a Missouri Film Commission sweatshirt for being the first to provide these correct answers: 1) Branson, 2) "Still Waters," 3) "Miracle Match," 4) MOMMA, 5) "Civil War Stories." Thanks to all the loyal readers who gave it a shot.



A national Food Network appearance was no baloney for the **Swiss Meat & Sausage Company** in Swiss, Mo. Bill Sloan, who founded the company, and his son Mike, who runs the company with his dad, explained recently the impact an appearance on the show "Road Tasted" had on their company, which specializes in smoked meats and over 40 original varieties of bratwurst. Mike said that after the episode originally aired in August – the segment was taped in May – the company received 1500 email and phone orders that night. The show has re-aired several times since, triggering hundreds of phone orders immediately afterward. As a result of the national exposure, the company has added six more full time staff. It's an interesting example of how film and television production can create economic impact. For more info about the company, or some really tasty brats, go to www.swissmeats.com. [Pictured Road Tasted's Dean brothers between Bill- left and Mike Sloan]

Actor Blair Underwood (right) made a brief return visit to St. Louis last month for a TLC-network show he is helping to produce, "Easy Money." The show documents the lives of a group of people in St. Louis who split a monster lottery win last year. A production crew spent most of the month of December in St. Louis following the winners through the holiday season. No word yet on when the program will air.



The Slamdance Film Festival will feature Columbia, MO-local-turned-L.A.-resident **Grace Lee's film "American Zombie."** "I'm very excited about having the world premiere of 'American Zombie' at the Slamdance Film Festival. The festival has a reputation for showcasing truly independent American cinema and is run by filmmakers, for filmmakers," said Lee. The film documents the daily lives of a small community of the living deceased who make their home in Los Angeles. The Slamdance Film Festival is January 18-27 in Park City, Utah.



The Kansas City Filmmakers Jubilee, the KC Film Commission, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Film Studies program are sponsoring a **free seminar on film and video editing**, Monday, Jan. 15, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Tina Hirsch, the first woman president of the American Cinema Editors, and Tara Veneruso, founder of MoviesByWomen.com, will discuss the technical and creative side of editing at Take 2 Productions, 1906 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Mo. No reservations are required. For more info call 913-649-0244.

Cinema St. Louis is proud to announce that submissions for the **2007 CinemaSpoke Screenwriting Competition and Workshop** are now being accepted through February, 28, 2007. CinemaSpoke is an opportunity for St. Louis area (120 mile radius) screenwriters to have their work read aloud in a public forum by professional and amateur actors and to receive feedback from a panel of film industry experts experienced in producing, screenwriting, filmmaking, development and criticism. Interested? Get all the details at: <http://www.cinemastlouis.org/cinemaspoke.cfm>

"**Completing Kaden**," a half-hour situational comedy/drama shot in South St. Louis which bills itself as "a new breed of sitcom," geared to teenagers and young adults, has just been picked up by the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). TBN is the world's largest religious network, and in 2007 "Completing Kaden" will be carried on over 6,000 TV stations in the U.S. and thousands more in over 60 countries worldwide. In the United States, you can see "Completing Kaden" on channel 260 on DISH Network and channel 372 on DirecTV. Also starting in early 2007, "Completing Kaden" will begin airing on the Australian Christian Channel. Many more network deals, around-the-world, are currently in the works. For more information, go to www.completingkaden.com.



Call for entries! Here is your chance to speak out and inspire your peers to stop global warming by sharing solutions in the **CONVENIENT TRUTHS contest**. Submit a one-two minute video that demonstrates practical, easy and inspired ways to reduce your carbon emissions. Win over web viewers and celebrity judges like actress Daryl Hannah, and you'll get the chance to have your video streamed on weather.com's climate change site One Degree and get distributed on a DVD from Ironweed Films. You'll also be in the running for \$25,000 worth of prizes. The CONVENIENT TRUTHS contest has been endorsed by former Vice President Al Gore, calling the contest "a great way to spread the word and bring the issue into our daily lives." The deadline is February 28, Contact Jessica Root at 347-774-8215 for questions. Visit www.truths.treehugger.com to find out more.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Do you have production news or photos from set to share?
E-mail us at mofilm@missouri.edu

Michigan threw another log on the competitive fire this week when it instituted a **\$7 million rebate program annually for film productions**. Passed by the legislature late in the session last month and becoming effective Jan. 1, the program is funded for four years. Unlike a tax credit program, the rebate program gives the production cash back for a percentage of the expenditures. Michigan is funding the program from general revenues. Additionally, the funding for the Michigan Film Office was increased by \$500,000 a year to \$650,000 annually.