

## MISSOURI NEWS

Welcome to the Weekly Wrap-Up, the bi-weekly e-newsletter produced by the Missouri Film Office. Here you'll get the latest updates on film and video production in Missouri.

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) is the research division for the Missouri Department of Economic Development. They provide innovative analyses and assistance to policymakers and the public, including studies of the state's targeted industries and economic development initiatives. A new report was just published, [Missouri Motion Media: A Wide Reach with Rich Rewards](http://www.missourieconomy.org/industry/mo_motion_media.stm), which includes data on the current film/ TV/ motion media climate in our state. Check out the full report at [http://www.missourieconomy.org/industry/mo\\_motion\\_media.stm](http://www.missourieconomy.org/industry/mo_motion_media.stm)



**Farmer Wants a Wife!** A new reality series, shot in Missouri, on the CW Network is turning heads by being a bit more "wholesome" than your average show. In "Farmer Wants a Wife" ten women are brought from the city streets to the rural countryside to see if they can handle and find love with a country boy. Watch the series on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the CW Network. "Farmer" was taped on location last July in Portage des Sioux, about 15 minutes from St. Charles and about 25 minutes from downtown St. Louis. The farm, by the way, was not farmer Matt Neustadt's own farm; it was rented by the production for the show, along with the cows and pigs.



"Meet Bill" opened to a limited release in select movie theaters April 4th. Previously titled just "Bill," the film shot in St. Louis in July of 2006 and stars Aaron Eckhart ("No Reservations," "Thank You for Smoking"), Elizabeth Banks ("The 40 Year Old Virgin," "Spiderman") and Jessica Alba ("Fantastic Four," "Sin City"). See the trailer at <http://www.firstlookstudios.com/films/meetbill/>

Calling All St. Louis Filmmakers! [Cinema St. Louis](http://www.cinemasstlouis.org) and the [Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts](http://www.pulitzerfoundation.org) invite St. Louis-area filmmakers to project their imaginations on the Pulitzer building by creating short silent films that employ light as a key element. For more information and requirements visit: [www.cinemasstlouis.org](http://www.cinemasstlouis.org) or call Cinema St. Louis at 314-289-4150.

A Scholarship for Young Women! Kansas City Women in Film and TV (KCWIFT) announce the recipient of the **2008 KCWIFT Trailblazer Scholarship recipient, Elsa Pageler** is this year's winner with her script "Elevator Music." Elsa is a junior at Olathe Northwest High School in Olathe, Kansas. Her script is about six people who get stuck in an elevator with a claustrophobic boy. Her goal is to be a director. This is the third year for the KCWIFT Trailblazer Scholarship. For additional information, please see the KCWIFT website: [www.KCWIFT.org](http://www.KCWIFT.org) or contact Paul Smith at [Paula.Smith35@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:Paula.Smith35@sbcbglobal.net).

**St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers and Accountants for the Arts (VLAA)** has added a new Independent Filmmaker Page to its website. It's a great overview of the most important legal and business matters facing low- budget independent filmmakers. Check it out at: <http://www.vlaa.org/filminfo.asp>



In the Local News! St. Louis's Patrick Voss graduated from building haunted houses and creating handmade masks to sock puppets with his new children's show, "Sockville." Voss's company, Robot Monkey Lab, does special effects, animation, props, miniatures, displays, sets, graphics, masks and costuming. Using charming sock puppets, Voss aims to help young children with educational stories about morals, listening and friendship. You can find more information at [www.sockville.com](http://www.sockville.com).

Los Angeles Connections! **Ali Basso**, a previous student at the Creative Actors Workshop, just booked a national commercial for Nikon with Ashton Kutcher in Los Angeles. For more information on Creative Actors Workshop and the classes they offer, in Springfield and St. Louis, go to [www.creativeactorsworkshop.com](http://www.creativeactorsworkshop.com).

Stephens College in Columbia, Mo will host its third annual **Summer Film Institute (SFI)** for aspiring women filmmakers. The 12-day intensive workshop, May 14-25, gives female filmmakers of all ages the opportunity to learn about the various aspects of filmmaking such as directing, cinematography, lighting, sound, script, and the producer's unit. Students work alongside industry professionals to create a short film ultimately screened in theatres and at festivals. For more information, visit [www.stephens.edu/sfi](http://www.stephens.edu/sfi).



You Can Handle the Truth! **AOL True Stories** (<http://truestories.aol.com>), an all-documentary web site, began a year ago to provide new distribution and revenues to documentary filmmakers. The web can supplement traditional distribution. It can bring in new money for you - from advertisers, increased DVD sales and downloads. If you would like to submit your work for digital distribution or want to learn more, please reach out to [andrewmer2006@aol.com](mailto:andrewmer2006@aol.com) or call 212 352 3007 ext 115.

Bring Out Your Improv! **Bill Chott** ("Saturday Night Live," "The Ringer," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"), one of the few stars to permanently reside in St. Louis, is teaching classes at The Improv Trick in St. Louis starting May 18 – July 13. Chott will be teaching comedy writing, improv and more! For more information and to register, e-mail [info@theimprovtrick.com](mailto:info@theimprovtrick.com) or call (314) 922-1998.



**Carrie Houk** (left)– actress, teacher, casting director – will be honored as a woman dedicated to advancing the arts in St. Louis at the 2008 Visionary Awards May 21 at the Sheldon Concert Hall in Grand Center. Carrie is one of eight women being honored this year. Tickets for the event are available; the RSVP deadline is May 13. For more info, contact Jessica Stack at 314.289.1523. Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the state, another casting director was being honored. **Heather Laird** (right), of Wright-Laird Casting in Kansas City, received the Outstanding Service Award to the KC Film Community. The award was presented last month during the 12th Annual KC Jubilee Film Festival. For a complete list of winners in all categories, go to [www.kcjubilee.org](http://www.kcjubilee.org).

