

Film Festival planned

BY KATHRYN BOUGHTON
Managing Editor

March can be pretty mucky in Northwest Connecticut—dreary, cold and uninviting. But a Kent resident, Frank Galterio, has an idea to bring some excitement to the month. Mr. Galterio, an amateur filmmaker, is planning the first Kent Film Festival on two days in March.

"I thought the Cornwall Film Festival was greatest thing," he said. "It's great for the people who make these films to have a venue. Little film festivals are becoming a big thing and I thought it would be great for Kent because there is so much hidden talent out there—especially young talent. So, I said, 'Let's rent the Community House, set a date and put the word out that we will have a film festival.' I think, 'If you build it, they will come.'"

The photographer owns Galterio Designs in Kent with his graphic artist wife, Patrice. He and his wife are being joined in the film festival venture by Andrew Hicks, an employee at Kent Video & Photo.

Mr. Galterio said there is a subculture of amateur filmmakers in the region. "There is definitely a subculture, from young people to

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people my age—I'm 55. One young person I talked to has come up with an idea that is just fantastic. It's easy to make films because of all the computers and the editing [equipment] that is so great," he said. "And now everyone has digital cameras. With a digital camera you can create a great little film. When everyone is involved in making a film and everyone is doing it for the fun of it, it becomes a party."

Mr. Galterio is a fine arts photographer who has exhibited in the region, and has videotaped events for clients for years. "I

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was born with a camera in my hand," he said with a laugh. "And I have always been into video. But a few years ago I bought a camera and made a great little film called "Doggonit." People just laughed from the beginning to the end. I edited it from VCR to VCR and it was kind of rough, but it definitely told a story."

Following the success of "Doggonit" at the Cornwall Film Festival, he launched another creative effort. "Is Today the Day?" also ran eight minutes but was more technologically sophisticated. "It took me 15 hours to edit it," he reported. "I had costumes, locations and lights and had a blast doing it. Most of my films are short and funny."

He is now working on a third film, which he does not think will be done in time for the March Festival. "It is my 15-minute epic," he said happily.

The film is unlikely to be screened at his own festival because of the amount of work he has to do to put the two-day

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event together. "I keep thinking, 'This is a lot of work!' There is a lot I have to get done, but I think it will be fun to have it in March because everything is so dead that time of year. I am thinking of getting big lights like they have at Hollywood openings."

The festival will not show any films that have been aired commercially. Submissions of narrative, documentary and animated shorts or features must be post-marked by March 10 with a completed registration form and a check or money order sent to the Kent Film Festival, PO Box 846, Kent CT 06757.

Films must be in a DVD format and labeled with the title, the maker's name, category and running time. All clearances must be taken care of by the filmmakers and the works must be original. The entry fee for shorts [15 min-

utes and less] is \$25; features [two hours or less] are \$35.

Films will not be returned and the festival developers will not be responsible for lost or stolen materials. All films must be premiered at the festival. Filmmakers will be notified by mid-March if their works have been selected.

Mr. Galterio said he wants a panel to judge the films and it is possible that awards will be presented. "I was thinking of making an award with the Kent monument [as a pattern]—like the Oscars," he said laughing. "I haven't really come up with anything yet, but I will. It's not really about winning—it's about having someone see your work. Just to have someone appreciate it is the real reward."

For more information or to volunteer call Mr. Galterio of 860-927-3528.

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<http://www.kentfilmfestival.org>