Saturday, May 11 - The Department of Radio-Television-Film at The University of Texas at Austin will host the third annual Longhorn Denius Film Showcase, which will feature twelve of this year’s best student films. Among the films are three regional Student Academy Award winners, which will proceed to the national finals in May.

Free and open to the public, the event includes a 6 p.m. screening, followed by a reception at 9:30 pm. It will take place on the UT campus in Jesse Jones Communications Building B (CMB) KLRU Studio 6A—2504-B Whitis Ave—, where the famous “Austin City Limits” filmed for over 25 years.

"Every year, this celebration of student films features young filmmakers who go on to national and international prominence," said Paul Stekler, chair of the Department of Radio-Television-Film and the Wofford Denius Chair in Entertainment Studies. "Our filmmakers have screened at Venice, Sundance, Toronto, Dubai and other major festivals where they have received critical acclaim. They got started in screenings right here in Austin. I encourage everyone to come out and see the filmmakers who'll find similar success in the future and continue to fuel the film industry in Texas."

This year’s films are:

- Incident at Public School 173 (12:31) – Narrative, directed by Andrew Tilley, BS student
- Peaches (5:14) – Music Video, directed by Johanna Witherby, MFA student
- The Longest Sun (16:26) – Narrative, directed by Patrick William Smith, MFA student
- Yeah Kowalski! (10:01) – Narrative, directed by Evan Roberts, MFA student
- The Yellow Wallpaper (2:59) – Experimental, directed by Nidhi Reddy, BS student
- Ash (10:19) – Documentary, directed by Nathan S. Duncan, MFA student
- The Teleported Man (12:38) – Narrative, directed by Zach Endres, BS student
- Factory (4:38) – Music Video, directed by Johanna Witherby, MFA student
- Ex-Votos (23:00) – Narrative, directed by Ivete Lucas, MFA student
- The Midwife’s Husband (21:43) – Narrative, directed by Déjà Bernhardt, MFA student
- Vultures of Tibet (21:02) – Documentary, directed by Russell O. Bush, MFA student
- Ol’ Daddy (29:20) – Narrative, directed by Brian Schwarz, MFA student

The Longhorn Denius Film Showcase is sponsored by Beth and Wofford Denius and the Cain Foundation, with contributions from Weeks&Co partners David Weeks and Suzanne Erickson, Mike Jones, and Ron Standifer.

Details on the films and filmmakers can be found on the following pages and on the web page: http://rtf.utexas.edu/showcase/longhorn-denius-showcase-2013.

For questions, please contact Elana Wakeman, RTF Communications Coordinator.
Ash - Documentary
Nathan S. Duncan

Ash wanders the abandoned spaces of the Austin State Hospital (formerly the Texas State Lunatic Asylum) using archived doctors' logs from the late 19th century to light the way. It recites and examines the societal implications of admittance.
Ash screened at Full Frame Documentary Festival, 2013 and will screen in Edinburgh, Scotland in June 2013. (10:19)

About the filmmaker:
An MFA film & media production candidate, Nathan Duncan got his first set of prescription glasses at the age of nine and subsequently developed an obsession with documenting and manipulating images. His work explores the relationship between environment and person, keenly focusing on the social contracts enacted in the constructions of space. His films have screened at festivals including Full Frame Festival, Rooftop Summer Film Series, Anthology Film Archives, SXSW, Maryland Film Festival, Slamdance, ICDOCS, and U.Frame - Portugal.
Ex-Votos - Narrative
Ivete Lucas

Her pregnancy at risk, a young girl and her mother set out on a pilgrimage to ask a statue of St. Francis for divine protection. (23:00)

About the filmmaker:
Ivete Lucas is a filmmaker and visual artist born in Brazil and raised in Mexico. Her short film Asma screened nationally in Mexican movie theaters and was shortlisted for the Mexican Academy Awards. Her documentary and narrative films have screened in festivals in Europe, the USA and Latin America. She has received grants from the Mexican Film Institute (IMCINE), the Mexican National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA), the Teresa Lozano Long Center for Latin American Studies and the Texas Filmmakers Production Fund.
Incident at Public School 173 - Narrative
Andrew Tilley

A boy must brave the harshness of battle in order the save the girl he loves from the wrath of the evil school bully.

About the filmmaker:
After graduating in May 2012 from UT, Andrew Tilley has shot a feature and 2nd unit DPd a western. He currently lives in Dallas, where he freelances as a director and cinematographer.
Capturing moments from American history, "Factory" (4:38) is about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, and "Peaches" (5:14) is inspired by 1923 celebrity culture. “Factory” played at an installation as part of Dance on Camera festival.

*About the filmmaker:*

**Johanna Witherby** (MFA ’12) is a scientist-turned-filmmaker who has never looked back. At The University of Texas, she pursued her love of creating surreal, stylized worlds. Previously, she edited multiple films, as well as associate produced *60 Camera’s Against the War*, which screened nationally, including at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her current work is a series of music videos about American historical events which have screened at Lincoln Center in New York and will be available online soon at www.pennypressnow.com.
The Longest Sun - Narrative

Patrick William Smith

Tahn Pi, a young Tewa boy, sets out on a mythical quest to stop the sun from setting. Inspired by the mythology of the Tewa peoples of northern New Mexico, *The Longest Sun* blends fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction to explore universal perceptions of time, maturation, and death. The film is told entirely in the endangered language of Tewa (less than 500 native speakers remain). *The Longest Sun* is being acquired by the Smithsonian Institute at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. It will also be exhibited in the George Gustav Heyes Center (a Smithsonian branch) in New York City. Student award winner (Wild and Scenic Film Festival), recipient of the Kodak Student Scholarship award, winner of Audience Award (Rocks With Wings Film Festival), and screened in the PBS Online Film Festival. (16:26)

About the filmmaker:

Patrick Smith (MFA ‘12) works as a director and cinematographer between Austin, Texas and Seattle, Washington. He has directed a number of award-winning fiction and nonfiction films, web-series and commercials. His documentary, *Shades of the Border*, toured at over two dozen film festivals worldwide (including SXSW, Media That Matters), garnering a number of awards and receiving DVD distribution. Smith went on to direct a reality web-series for internet mogul, Penny Arcade, and later developed a comedy web-series funded through a successful, front-page crowdsourcing campaign on Kickstarter — *Kris and Scott's, Scott and Kris Show* — which drew national media attention. His upcoming film, Lofty, will begin touring festivals this summer.
The Teleported Man - Narrative
Zach Endres

To shorten his sentence, a convict volunteers for a risky experiment that subsequently takes an unexpected turn.
Winner of the Audience Award for Best Student Short; Boston Science Fiction Film Festival, 2013; Texas Independent Film Festival, 2013; LoneStarCon3 Film Festival (Screens August 2013); Tri-Cities International Fantastic Film Festival (Screens October 2013. (12:38)

About the filmmaker:
A recent RTF graduate from the University of Texas, Zach Endres (BS ’12) is an avid writer and filmmaker with close to a dozen produced short scripts under his belt. His most recently written short, ROUGH WATERS, premiered on the Longhorn Network. He has also found success with his feature script DEEP WELL, which reached the coveted second round of AFF's 2012 Script Competition (Drama). Even though he hails from northern Illinois, he has found his home in Austin, Texas, where he plans to continue making films and is currently in pre-production for his newest short, SHARK.
Based off Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper," this rotoscoped animation tells the story of a depressed woman who is driven to insanity by the confines of femininity.

*Winner of Grand Prize at the Texas Union Film Festival. (2:59)*

*About the filmmaker:*

**Nidhi Reddy** is a senior Radio-TV-Film and Mathematics double major, specializing in Digital Arts & Media. With a partner, she started her own production company, Kites in the Tree Media.
13-year old late bloomer Gabe Kowalski goes to desperate measures to impress a more mature classmate, Shane.

"Yeah, Kowalski!" has screened at the Maryland Film Festival, Sarasota Film Festival, Dallas International Film Festival, San Antonio Q Fest, Roze Filmdagen (Amsterdam LGBT Festival), and Toronto In and Out Film Festival. It was also a runner up for the Iris Prize. (10:01)

About the filmmaker:

**Evan Roberts** is in his final year at UT-Austin's MFA in Film Production program. He was awarded an RTF continuing fellowships as well as a Texas Film Production Fund grant from the Austin Film Society for his thesis project, "Arvind."

Evan's first narrative film "33 Teeth" was programmed by Slamdance, Outfest, won Best LGBT Short at the NYC Short Film Festival, and was a candidate for the Iris Prize in 2011.
The Midwife’s Husband - Narrative
Déjà Cresencia Bernhardt

William, an aging Austin musician married to the town midwife—a beacon in her community—is caught cheating on her with one of her pregnant patients. When William and his wife are faced with the life-threatening childbirth of her unborn child, they are all forced to see their marriage and themselves in a new light. Based on a true story.

Regional Student Academy Award Winner; National Student Academy Award Nominee. (21:43)

About the filmmaker:
Traveling between her disparate homes in Bali, Indonesia and Austin, Texas, Déjà Bernhardt (MFA student) draws upon her mixed heritage, finding inspiration to tell both fiction and non-fiction stories. Her body of work includes documentaries that have been globally influential in promoting humanitarian efforts in Africa, Indonesia and Haiti, and include the award-winning documentaries, Guerrilla Midwife and Tsunami Notebook. Déjà loves to create films that open hearts and connect people to their global communities. Her most recent completed work, The Midwife’s Husband, has recently won the 40th Annual Regional Student Academy Awards and is nominated for the National Student Academy Award 2013. Déjà is a graduate of Maharishi University in Enlightened Film and Media and a current graduate student at The University of Texas at Austin where she is completing her MFA in Film Production. She is currently in pre-production of a pilot for a television series she is developing titled Returning To Ananda, which goes into production in June 2013.
Sky Burial, a private ritual where the bodies of Tibetan dead are offered to wild griffon vultures, becomes a tourist attraction as Chinese modernization in Tibet invigorates an ideological conflict often hidden to the outside world.

Winner of the 2013 University Co-op Outstanding Thesis Award; Regional Student Academy Award Winner; National Student Academy Award Nominee. (21:02)

About the filmmaker:
Russell O. Bush (MFA ’12) is a rural Alaskan turned filmmaker based in Austin, Texas. As a director and cinematographer he works in narrative fiction, documentary, and wildlife filmmaking and has screened his work through broadcast and in a number of film festivals around the world including SXSW, The Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, The Big Sky Documentary Festival, and The San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. His most recent film, MAGPIE, premiered in the Texas Shorts program at SXSW 2012 and was called “The strongest of the lot” by DFW.com. Alongside directing, Russell is also a cinematographer who’s worked everywhere from the comfort of the studio to waist deep snow in the Alaska Mountain Range with National Geographic Television’s UNTAMED AMERICAS series. He has also worked in the offices of the production and broadcast teams at [ITVS] The Independent Television Service in San Francisco, CA; as well as on their supported documentary project BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, along with a team of other documentary shooters.
Ol’ Daddy- Narrative
Brian Schwarz

A young man struggles with his new role in life as his father's full-time caretaker. But when his father wanders off one afternoon, Terry must put everything aside to track him down.

Regional Student Academy Award Winner; National Student Academy Award Nominee; Nominated for “Best Short Film” and “Best Supporting Actor in a Short” at the Action on Film International Film Festival (Monrovia, CA); played in White Sands International and Trail Dance film festivals. (29:20)

About the filmmaker:
Brian Schwarz is a 2012 graduate of the MFA film program at The University of Texas at Austin. He got his start in filmmaking as an undergrad at Emerson College in Boston, MA. He has made numerous short films since then that have played in festivals around the country. "Ol'Daddy" is Brian's thesis film.
Irene Georghiades
(Produced 3 showcase films: The Teleported Man, Ex-Votos, and Incident at Public School 173)

An RTF senior, Irene Georghiades is a freelance producer of over a dozen short films and is based in Austin, Texas, including THREE of our ten showcase films. Incident at Public School 173 and The Teleported Man both premiered at the 2012 Austin Film Festival, where The Teleported Man won an audience award. One of her recent shorts, Rough Waters, premiered on The Longhorn Network in March 2013. In early 2013 she wrapped production on Ex-Votos, an international co-production shot in Real de Catorce, Mexico. An avid list-make and detail-obsessed, she aspires to continue producing after graduating from the University of Texas in May 2013. She is currently wrapping up production on her thesis film, Sleepless Cities, and will be producing several short films during the summer.