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Student Filmmakers Take Their Creations to the Small Screen

Most-Viewed Film Wins Screenwriter a \$500 Savings Bond

This summer, Austin students will take their place on a virtual red carpet, while familiar click, click, click sounds are heard all around them. In this case it won't be paparazzi cameras they're hearing, but the sound of Central Texans' remote controls as the students compete to earn top honors through the Austin Film Festival's partnership with Time Warner Cable.

Students participating in the Austin Film Festival's Storytelling Through Film program will have their work shown on Time Warner Cable's Central Texas On Demand channel 1400. The student or student team whose film is viewed the most between June 15 and August 15 will win a \$500 savings bond from Time Warner Cable and their school will receive a \$500 technology grant.

Storytelling Through Film is an Austin Film Festival program at Akins High School, Garza Independence High School and in AISD's Project HELP (Homeless Education and Learning Program). Students learn how to take a story from an idea into a screenplay and then produce the film while working in small teams.

Films to be shown on Central Texas On Demand include *Quick Feet*, *The New Girl*, *Who's Your Daddy*, *Epileptic Death*, *Death's Choice*, and *Revenge*.

"Storytelling Through Film is about much more than making a movie. It teaches students important life skills, like teamwork, creative writing and project management," said Alissa Ziemianski, the Director of AFF's Young Filmmakers Program. "We're excited students' films will be available on Time Warner Cable for movie fans across Central Texas to watch."

Storytelling Through Film leads students through the process of creating a screenplay by having them write their own short story. They convert their short story into a screenplay, exploring elements of voice, character, setting and visual characteristics. Throughout the process, they adapt dialogue and tone, edit one another's work and examine filmed segments of their scripts to see how the work translates to the screen. At the conclusion, they re-write their short stories, providing fuller characters, a more rounded plot and better developed tone and style.

The students then participate in an after-school program to develop, shoot and edit a film. Local filmmakers work with the students discussing all aspects of running a production. After filming is

completed, students learn how to edit on industry software and add in music, title cards, graphics and credits.

“Time Warner Cable is thrilled to showcase the work of Texas’ young filmmakers,” said Stacy Schmitt, vice president of communications for Time Warner Cable Central Texas. “The Austin Film Festival is bringing exciting and innovative programs to Austin youth and Time Warner Cable is proud to be their partner.”

Viewers can also watch student films from AFF’s 2008 Summer Film Camp. Films from the 2009 Film Camp will also be posted on Central Texas on Demand after the films are completed in August.

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About Austin Film Festival

The Austin Film Festival (AFF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the art, craft and business of writers and filmmakers and recognizing their contributions to film, television and new media. The AFF champions the work of aspiring and established writers and filmmakers by providing unique cultural events and services, enhancing public awareness and participation and encouraging dynamic and long-lasting community partnerships. www.austinfilmfestival.com

The Austin Film Festival is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Special support is provided to the Austin Film Festival by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, The Brown Foundation, KVUE, Shield-Ayres Foundation Time Warner Cable and Whole Foods Market.

About Time Warner Cable

Time Warner Cable brings quality, technologically advanced video, internet and digital phone service to thousands of Central Texas homes and businesses each day. Time Warner Cable is the second-largest cable operator in the U.S., with technologically advanced, well-clustered systems located mainly in five geographic areas — New York state (including New York City), the Carolinas, Ohio, southern California (including Los Angeles) and Texas.