Jan Term Film Festival Offers New Perspectives

NATIONAL WOMEN-MADE FILM FESTIVAL MAKES STOP IN HAGERTY LOUNGE JANUARY 22, INCLUDES NINE AWARD-WINNING SHORTS

By Amanda Kuehn

What do you get when you combine the talents of female actors, directors, producers and artists with a fervent desire to raise funds for local non-profits and advocate for the elimination of preventable and environmental causes of breast cancer? An evening viewing of nine amazing short films and a whole lot of Luna bars.

LUNAFEST is a traveling film festival filled with stories by women, for women, and about women that center around the themes of reflection, hope and humor sponsored by LUNA, the makers of The Whole Nutrition Bar for Women. Originally founded in 2000, LUNAFEST has featured 110 filmmakers and has raised close to two million dollars. This year’s LUNAFEST films range in form from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women’s health, motherhood, body image, sexuality, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. “It’s a platform for women’s stories,” explained WRC director Sharon Sobotta.

The Women’s Resource Center has sponsored LUNAFEST screenings since 2009. This year the screening will be held on Wednesday, January 22nd from 6:00-8:00 pm in Hagerty Lounge. The WRC screening will feature a generous spread of snacks.

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The WRC charges $5 for students and $10 for non-students. Thus far, LUNAFEST has raised over $656,000 for Breast Cancer Fund and over $1,000,000 for other women’s non-profit organizations. “All of our proceeds go directly to The Breast Cancer Fund,” said Sobotta.

Previous screenings have been 75 people strong, a number which is expected to keep growing. Some students get credit for Jan. Term courses, others just come for fun. “It’s a great opportunity to really experience art and to connect through film,” Sobotta encouraged.

Vivaciousness. Variety. V-Day!

Rehearsals have already begun for this year’s SMC production of The Vagina Monologues! This annual event, which is based on Eve Ensler’s popular play of the same name, raises funds for local organizations to stop gender-based violence. It is student-run and will take place on February 14th. If you’d like to participate behind the scenes or on stage, there’s still time! Email lc9@stmarys-ca.edu or jcg8@stmarys-ca.edu to get involved or find out more!
Emmy-winning Producer Talks Gender & News

CNN producer Geraldine Moriba to give talk called “Gender, Race, and Metamorphosis in the News Industry” for Jan Term series

By Valerie Ettenhofer

On Wednesday, January 22nd, be sure to stick around campus after LUNAFEST. If you don’t, you’ll miss a special guest speaker for SMC’s five-part Jan Term 2014 Speaker Series, CNN and former Dateline producer Geraldine Moriba. Moriba will speak and participate in a Q&A in the Soda Center at 7pm. Her lecture, titled, “Gender, Race, and the Metamorphosis of the News Industry,” will discuss “intersections of professional and private life,” especially regarding race, gender, and generation, according to WaGS coordinator Scott Schoenfeldt-Aultman. Moriba is a five-time Emmy winner whose past news spotlights have included topics including, election fraud, education, child services and race issues. Moriba currently works as Executive Producer on CNN’s In America and serves as Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, and will discuss her time at the network during the event. All students are welcome to attend this event, which is co-sponsored by the Women & Gender Studies Program, the Communications Department, and The Disney Forum.

Contact the WRC!
-Director Sharon Sobotta: (925) 631-4171
-Coordinator of Sexual Assault Awareness Gillian Cutshaw: (925) 631-4193

The WRC in 2014:
- The Body Positive: Every other Thursday (January 16th and 30th) @ 5:30 in the WRC
- LUNAFEST: January 22nd @ 6pm in Hagerty
- V-Day: February 14th @ 3pm and 8pm in the Soda Center
- Love Your Body Week: February 17th through 21st
- Tribute to Women of African Descent: February 26th @ 1pm in Hagerty
- W0/MEN’s Conference: March 8th @ 9pm in the Soda Center
- Women’s Herstory: March 19th @ 6pm in the WRC
- . . . and much more!