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Lineup announced for DOCUTAH



David DeMille, ddemille@thespectrum.com 5:38 p.m. MDT July 26, 2015



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(Photo: Chris Caldwell / The Spectrum & Daily News, Chris Caldwell / The Spectrum & Daily News)

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Films covering everything from social media revolution in the Middle East to the history of the ball will be featured in the sixth annual DOCUTAH International Film Festival, organizers announced Sunday.

The popular documentary film festival, hosted by Dixie State University, will include 77 films in all.

“Our films this year are filled with colorful characters, exotic locations and stories which are at times compelling, amazing, quirky and riveting. There really is something for everyone,” said Phil Tuckett, Artistic Director for DOCUTAH, associate professor at Dixie State University and the Director of the Center for Media Innovation at the DSU media center.

Tuckett said submissions came in from 39 states and 31 countries this year, with the festival having gained an increasingly large footprint with filmmakers in recent years.

“The variety of subjects will bring audiences to places they have never known and allow them to experience a wide range of emotions from tears to laughter,” Tuckett said.

The event is scheduled for Sept. 8-12.



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Directors Ashley Moradipour and Devyn Bisson receive an award during the 2014 DOCUTAH International Film Festival for their film *Under The Mango Tree*, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014. (Photo: Chris Caldwell / The Spectrum & Daily News, Chris Caldwell / The Spectrum & Daily News)

There were more than 400 submissions to the festival, according to organizers, covering a broad range of topics.

"#chicagoGirl: The Social Network Takes On A Dictator" covers the story of an American teenage girl who used platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Skype and camera phones to coordinate revolution in Syria. "BOUNCE" covers the history of the ball, looking at its use throughout the course of human history.

“What really strikes us about the submissions this year was the diversity — cultural, national, regional, topical, informational — and how often stories of people from one era or region can relate to the lives of others far away or far removed,” said Jeffery Jarvis, dean of the School of Visual & Performing Arts at Dixie State University.



Film-goers attend the 2014 DOCUTAH International Film Festival at Dixie State University. (Photo: Chris Caldwell / *The Spectrum & Daily News*, Chris Caldwell / *The Spectrum & Daily News*)

DOCUTAH drew more than 12,000 film-goers last year, when it included 67 films. The festival is one of the few university-sponsored festivals in the U.S., with DSU students involved in many of the seminars, filmmaker panels and other aspects of the production.

“Independent documentary films inspire audiences by providing a global connection to the universal human experience,” Jarvis said. “DOCUTAH brings together independent filmmakers, aspiring film students, citizens of the world and the Southern Utah community in an educational setting on the campus of Dixie State University.”

The roster of films, along with video trailers, are available online at docutah.com.