Hollywood Producer to Work with Film Students on TV Series

Hollywood veteran Bill Borden, who has produced 35 movies, will work with students in the David Lynch MA in Film this coming year to produce a TV series, with each student writing and directing one or more episodes.

His movie credits include *Mission: Impossible III*, *La Bamba*, *End of Days*, *Meet the Robinsons*, and *Get on the Bus*, as well as creating and producing Disney’s series of TV films titled *High School Musical*.

As executive producer, Mr. Borden will meet with the students via Skype and will come to campus several times for a few days each time. Depending on how the series takes shape, Mr. Borden and the students will develop an exhibition plan, with potential commercial options including a web series, cable TV, Amazon, Netflix, or network TV.

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What is the total dignity of life? The total dignity of life is cosmic. Cosmic is the range of authority of every human being. Now because of lack of knowledge, human life was lived on the basis of human concepts. Now it is the time for the Veda to wake up. And now we feel we have a right instrument for total natural law to shape the destiny of mankind and create a beautiful, beautiful world.”

— Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, July 20, 2005 press conference
Strong Sales for Book on Dangers of GMO Food by Founding Faculty Member
BY LIVIA COLE

A recently published book by founding faculty member Steven Druker, an exposé of the fraud related to genetically modified food, immediately sold out its first printing and is now a #1 bestseller on Amazon. It is available as an e-book, a hard cover, and a soft cover.

Titled Altered Genes, Twisted Truth: How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived the Public, the book features a foreword by the renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, who hails it as “without doubt one of the most important books of the last 50 years.”

Dr. Goodall teamed up with Mr. Druker to formally launch the book at a press conference in London last month. She has also appeared with him at press conferences in Costa Rica, the U.S., and Canada.

The book tells the story of how the massive enterprise to reconfigure the genetic core of the world’s food supply was born, how it has advanced through illicit means, and how it is subjecting people’s health and the health of the environment to unacceptable risks.

Mr. Druker, a public interest attorney and executive director of the Alliance for Bio-Integrity, initiated a lawsuit in 1998 that forced the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to divulge its files on genetically engineered foods. The files revealed that agency decision-makers had covered up the extensive warnings of their own scientists about the unusual risks of these foods and then allowed them to be marketed illegally.

He assembled a coalition of eminent scientists and religious leaders to join the suit, marking the first time scientists had sued a federal administrative agency on the grounds that one of its policies is scientifically unsound.

Mr. Druker was professor of law and government at MUM and also served as executive vice-president in 1975–76. He was affiliated with the University from 1973 through 1986.

Top Global Software Company Helps Fund Maharishi Institute Students

Students at Maharishi Invincibility Institute in South Africa, which partners with MUM, will now have their education supported in part by SAP South Africa.

SAP, the world’s largest business software company, is active in 143 countries and has 30,000 enterprise clients. SAP South Africa is issuing 19.5% of its shares to a broad-based black economic empowerment trust that will distribute dividends to beneficiaries, who will use the funds to cover education costs at accredited institutions.

According to a press release, SAP South Africa selected Maharishi Institute because it “provides not only access to an effective education but also provides the relevant life-skills and ethos that assist in transforming previously disadvantaged graduates to market-ready accomplished individuals.”

Maharishi Institute provides tertiary education in the areas of finance, technology infrastructure, and life skills. Students at MII have the option of taking their third and fourth years of undergraduate work from MUM in order to receive a MUM undergraduate degree in business.

School Teams Take First in Creativity Competition

Maharishi School sent 11 teams to the Destination Imagination state competition last month, and returned with five state champion teams to represent Iowa at the global finals in May.

An international nonprofit volunteer organization, Destination Imagination teaches the creative process, from imagination to innovation. The program encourages teams of students to have fun, take risks, focus, and frame challenges while incorporating science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the arts, and service learning. Participants learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem-solving process.

“At Maharishi School we have a rich history of success at creative problem-solving competitions,” said Mark Wilkins, the Maharishi School Destination Imagination program director. “The five champion teams from Maharishi School will be one-third of the total teams representing Iowa at global finals.”

Two Lower School boys teams (4th–5th graders) won first place in their category, and three Upper School teams took first. Six of the 15 participants from the Upper School are boarding students, including five from China and one from Dubai.

The community will be able to see these performances on Saturday, May 16, at the Destination Imagination Showcase.

School Students Win Art Awards

Eight Maharishi School students came away with awards last month at the Southeast Iowa Conference Art Exhibition hosted by Southeastern Community College in Burlington.

With 15 schools competing, Rain Spotted Elk won first in mixed media and honorable mention in photography, and Lucy Tongyao Wary took first in ceramics.

Others winning awards included Ivan Yifan Liu, Chandre Morales, and Jonah Marks.

The entries were judged on creativity, originality of theme, quality of composition, technical handling of the material, and basic design principles.
EcoJam Fashion Show Coming May 2

The annual EcoJam Fashion Show, one of the most popular events of the year, will be held Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 pm at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.

Complete with catwalk and music, the show will feature designs that are eco-conscious — using natural and organic materials and/or creations that are “upcycled” or recycled.

One of the designer lines during the fashion show will feature designs from MUM students and staff. Others contributing designs include MUM grads, MSAE alumni, Fairfield High School alumni, and independent fashion designers who have a connection to Fairfield.

Heading up the show for the second year is Jami Johnson, a printmaker at Bluefish Clothing and graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

See www.ecojamfairfield.com for more information and for photos and a video from the 2014 fashion show.

Chamber Singers Present “Sing Love”

The Chamber Singers of Southeast Iowa will present their annual spring concert, “Sing Love,” on Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17, at 8:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 200 South Main St. in Fairfield.

Now in their 24th year of performing, the Chamber Singers are known for their wide-ranging and innovative concert programs. This year’s choral selections, drawn from across the centuries and around the world, celebrate the many expressions of love: love of each other, love of community, and love of God. These songs also embody rich harmonies, dynamic rhythms, and contrasting styles.

Romance, with its timeless joys and longings, flows through songs from 16th-century France and Spain, 18th-century Germany and Scotland, and 20th-century America. Each of these songs reflects a unique heritage and harmonic style — from a Spanish villancico and a French chanson to contemporary doo-wop — but all convey the emotional depths of romantic love.

The many varieties of love of the Divine is captured by devotional works from 16th- and 17th-century Europe, rousing American spirituals, contemporary chant-based works, a South African song of praise, and a modern choral work based on poetry of Rabindranath Tagore. And songs of celebration, including a rhythmic calypso number from Costa Rica, embody the joys of community life.

“We know ‘love makes the world go ‘round,’ but it travels best on the wings of beautiful, dynamic, and heart-melting songs like the ones in this year’s program,” says Elaine Reding, music director of the Chamber Singers. “We’re looking forward to sharing these choral gems with everyone in our community.”

For more information, please call Ms. Reding at 641-472-1539. The concert is free but a donation at the door will be much appreciated.

Alumna Exhibits Paintings in Library

Alumna Sharon Gradischnig is currently exhibiting her paintings in the Library foyer. She studied art at MUM and then attended the Kansas City Art Institute.

“I paint as a way to share my experience of living as a physical, psychological, and spiritual being,” she wrote in her artist’s statement. “Through my interpretation of the cosmology of life and living I hope to bring thoughtfulness, investigation, and visual satisfaction to the viewer.”

She said her work has been influenced by Matisse, Expressionists such as Max Webber, Gerhart Richter’s abstract works, Rothko’s color field paintings, Modernist Japanese painters, and a group of artists who concentrate on circles, including Udo Noger and Kenneth Nolan.

Annapurna Menu

Find the dining hall menu online at mum.edu/menu