

Friends of Film Flourish

“We need community,” emphasizes Anne Stirling, founder of Friends of Film, Video and Arts. The former eastern Canadian independent filmmaker turned New Mexico filmmaker saw a need for peer mentoring and support. She filled it.

FoFVA is a non-profit group of professional filmmakers created specifically to support that art. Through collaboration, networking and mentorship, advice is handed out willingly. “They’re a great group of people,” says Stirling. “We’ll meet the needs of our members right now.”

After coming to New Mexico, Stirling discovered a vacuum when it came to working with other filmmakers. “I’m from eastern Canada where we help each other,” she explains. While many independent filmmakers may know *of* each other, they don’t *know* each other. FoFVA has brought people together where “they help each other out in all aspects of film production.”

Indie films are notorious for being low-budget (think half a million), so receiving professional help is a true benefit to FoFVA members. While they don’t work for free, members understand the production process and offer help in various areas of expertise. For example, one member may specialize in sound where another is good with hair and make up. They come together to “help each other get their story told.”

FoFVA is “attracting peers who have learned in the field and are willing to work with others,” says Stirling. Everyone who is a member is a professional filmmaker. “These are professional folks who are trying to learn from one another. They are peers.”

Founded in 2004, FoFVA is building a voice for the full-time resident independent filmmaker. This organization is unusual by the direct involvement of its members — the filmmakers, videographers and artists. When they have questions, Stirling helps find someone with answers.

October’s meeting addresses “once the film is made, now what?” Also film distribution, legalities, payroll, and other business issues will be discussed. And how do you get your film seen? “The meetings provide real opportunities to learn and connect.”

November 18 meeting will cover “cinnafilm”—cameras and camerawork that makes video look like film.

Director’s Cut New Mexico, a Channel 27 television series created by FoFVA, highlights the art of storytelling, distribution — the industry. “We’re focusing on New Mexico, but our stories and experiences are universal.”

Filmmakers come from all around New Mexico, from “Raton to Las Cruces,” to attend these meetings. “We’re always looking for people in other areas who would like to host a meeting

there,” says Stirling. And “people can make tax-deductible donations. Also, we’re looking especially for equipment donations that relate to screenings.”

Next meeting is October 21, Harwood Theater, 1114 Seventh Street NW. Guests \$5 donation. Contact stirling@filmvideoarts.org or call Anne, 897-2101.

Film festivals

October 5-7, Taos Mountain Film Festival. Features films of adventure, culture and wildlife of the world’s remote regions, presents mountaineering films and personalities, as well as symposia, photography exhibits, and reading from mountaineering literature. 505/751-3658; mountainfilm.net.

Film Museum Series

October 10, Brown Bag Lunch Lecture: City Under A City: The First Capitol. The talk will present a brief overview of the successive Native, Spanish and Anglo cultures which have occupied this spot. The Film Museum Theater: 418 Montezuma (formerly the Jean Cocteau Theater). nmfilmmuseum.org

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