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CENTRAL FLORIDA FILM SLAM AT ENZIAN THEATER TO OFFER DIRECT ENTRY INTO FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL, GRANT FUNDING, AND MORE

Orlando, FL – (November 14, 2019) – Beginning in January 2020, local filmmakers can look forward to a fresh take on the long-running film slam program at Enzian Theater. Complete with a new name and logo, *Central Florida Film Slam*, Enzian has decided to implement a more focused effort on the educational and community impact of its local filmmaker showcase.

Tim Anderson, Programming Coordinator for Enzian Theater and the Florida Film Festival, will oversee Central Florida Film Slam (CFFS) moving forward. Two Enzian staff members, Lorraine Sovern and Paige Babbage, will serve as Lead Programmer/Host and Programmer, respectively. The third CFFS programming slot will now be open to rotating student interns, whose placement will be decided upon by Enzian's internal CFFS team.

Additional program enhancements are listed below:

- The programming department of the Florida Film Festival (FFF) will select one film from the six CFFS audience award winners for direct acceptance into FFF 2020.
- Enzian will offer production grants with a combined total of \$2,000 to local filmmakers during the 2020 calendar year. Applications and information on the qualification requirements will be available on Enzian's website beginning December 20, 2019.
- In addition to maintaining its status as a showcase for local films, CFFS will now also focus on next steps. Filmmakers will have access to information sessions and workshops highlighting best practices for submitting to film festivals, start to finish: what festivals to submit to, when to submit, why it is important to go to certain festivals, the politics of premiere status, and when to cut your losses and move on to a new project. Information and dates for these sessions will be available on Enzian's website as they become available.
- Enzian has created a CFFS advisory board of industry professionals who will participate in various ways throughout the year. Confirmed CFFS Advisory Board members to date are:
 - Sharon Badal – Vice President of Filmmaker Relations & Shorts Programming, Tribeca Film Festival
 - Nick Bruno – Public Cinema Programs Manager, Seattle International Film Festival
 - Jim Brunzell – Programming Director at All Genders Lifestyles and Identities Film Festival (AGLIFF); Festival Director, Sound Unseen
 - Claire Carré – Director, Independent Spirit Award Nominee: *Embers*

- Paul Davis (Director: Blumhouse: Into the Dark – *The Body / Uncanny Annie*)
- Clementine Leger – Festival Coordinator at University of Southern California; former Slamdance Festival Manager
- Courtney Marsh – Director and Academy Award Nominee: *Chau, Beyond the Lines*
- Linda Olszewski – Acquisitions/Programming and Sales Sr. Executive: Oscar Shorts/Shorts TV/Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences

Existing perks of Enzian’s 15-year film slam program will remain. Submission to CFFS is free, and the entry form is still hosted on Enzian’s [website](#). Audience members will continue to have the opportunity to select a winning film at the six Central Florida Film Slams. Each winner, excluding the overall winner selected for direct entry into FFF, then advances to the selections committee for Enzian’s annual [Brouhaha Film & Video Showcase](#).

Tim Anderson, Programming Coordinator, says this of the program additions: “I am proudest that, combined, these changes represent a total about-face from the previous strategy; we’re moving from merely showcasing local films to an all-inclusive program designed to showcase, develop, and prepare local filmmakers for the greatest possibility of success in the future. The fact that a film can now move directly from CFFS to the Florida Film Festival’s Florida Shorts program is huge. That alone should be both a challenge and a benefit to filmmakers, encouraging them to step up their game. Enzian has always been a place for filmmakers and film students to congregate. With this program, we hope to now offer even more. It seems there are few organizations out there equipped to help filmmakers with strategies for what to do with their films after they have made them. Our goal is to demystify that process, and empower local filmmakers at an even greater level.”

Details regarding Central Florida Film Slam programming, CFFS internship applications, grant applications, and more, will be regularly updated on Enzian Theater’s social media platforms and on the Enzian website. Follow [@enziantheater](#) to stay informed.

The Central Florida Film Slam schedule for 2020 is as follows: January 19, March 8, May 17, June 14, August 9, and October 11. All events are at Enzian Theater on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$9.00, and members of the Enzian Film Society get in free.

INFO: Enzian is Central Florida's only full-time, not-for-profit cinema for first-run independent and international film, classic revivals, documentary features, and select family entertainment. Enzian, a member-supported organization serving the community for more than 34 years, is home to the Florida Film Festival and Eden Bar. For additional information, visit [Enzian.org](#) or call general information at (407) 629-1088.

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