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FilmColumbia Kicks off High School Film Workshop with YouTube Video

[Chatham, NY – May 18, 2008] – Every year, among the many world-class independent films shown at the FilmColumbia Film Festival, there is one that is a favorite with the local audiences before it even screens. It's the High School Film, written, directed, and acted by local area high school students.

This year, the festival is very fortunate to have enlisted local area filmmaker and filmmaking instructor, John Holzer, who runs the Digital Film Farm in Averill Park, New York, to lead the workshop. Holzer has worked professionally in video and film for over twenty years, working on projects featuring performers such as Stacy Keach, Jimmy Fallon, and John Mellencamp. He's shot projects for the Discovery Channel and Good Morning America, among others, and has won numerous television industry awards.

This year's workshop will give twelve Columbia County high school students the opportunity to learn filmmaking with John and to create their own short film. They will also have a chance to be part of one of Holzer's professional film shoots after the workshop is over.

"I hope the kids will leave this workshop with the belief that 'real' filmmaking is not only about big budget and special effects." said Holzer. "With a good story, digital video tools and basic skills, the big and little screen is within their reach."

Holzer explained that, "The workshop will show that by using the structure of filmmaking fundamentals, filmmakers' imaginations can be free to explore emotion, perspective and art."

To illustrate what students will learn in the workshop, Holzer created a video that gives a very lighthearted overview of the filmmaking fundamentals he teaches.

The video can be found on the FilmColumbia website at www.filmcolumbia.com, as well as on FilmColumbia's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chatham-NY/FilmColumbia-Film-Festival>, and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZBMF8jtvTY>.

The High School Film Workshop runs July 8 – 14. The film produced at the workshop will be shown at the FilmColumbia festival in October. To qualify, students must either reside in, or attend high school in Columbia County. Enrollment is limited. The application deadline is June 15.

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