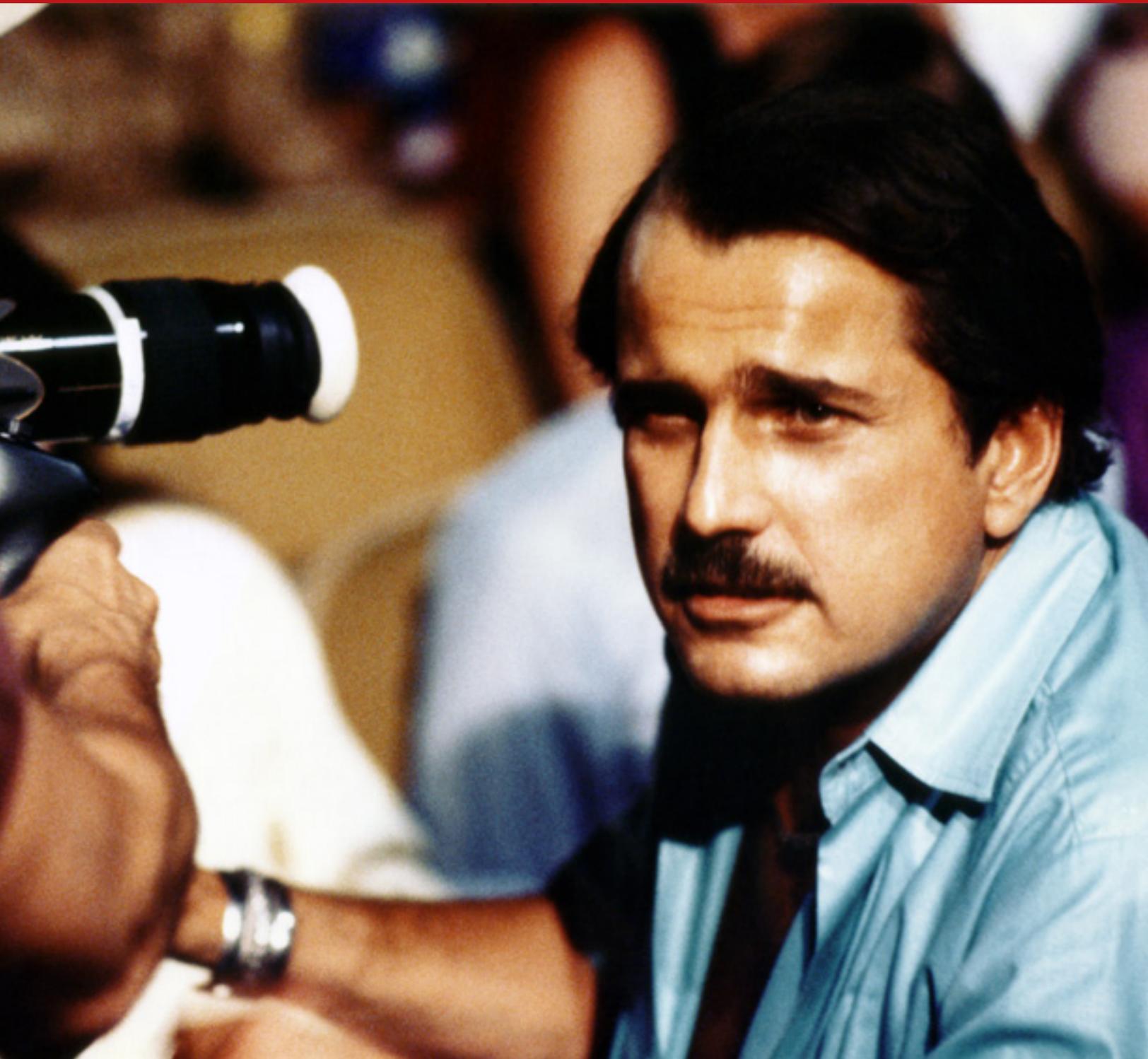


T H E A N D R E W J . K U E H N J R .

A J K

F O U N D A T I O N

— NEWSLETTER 2016 —

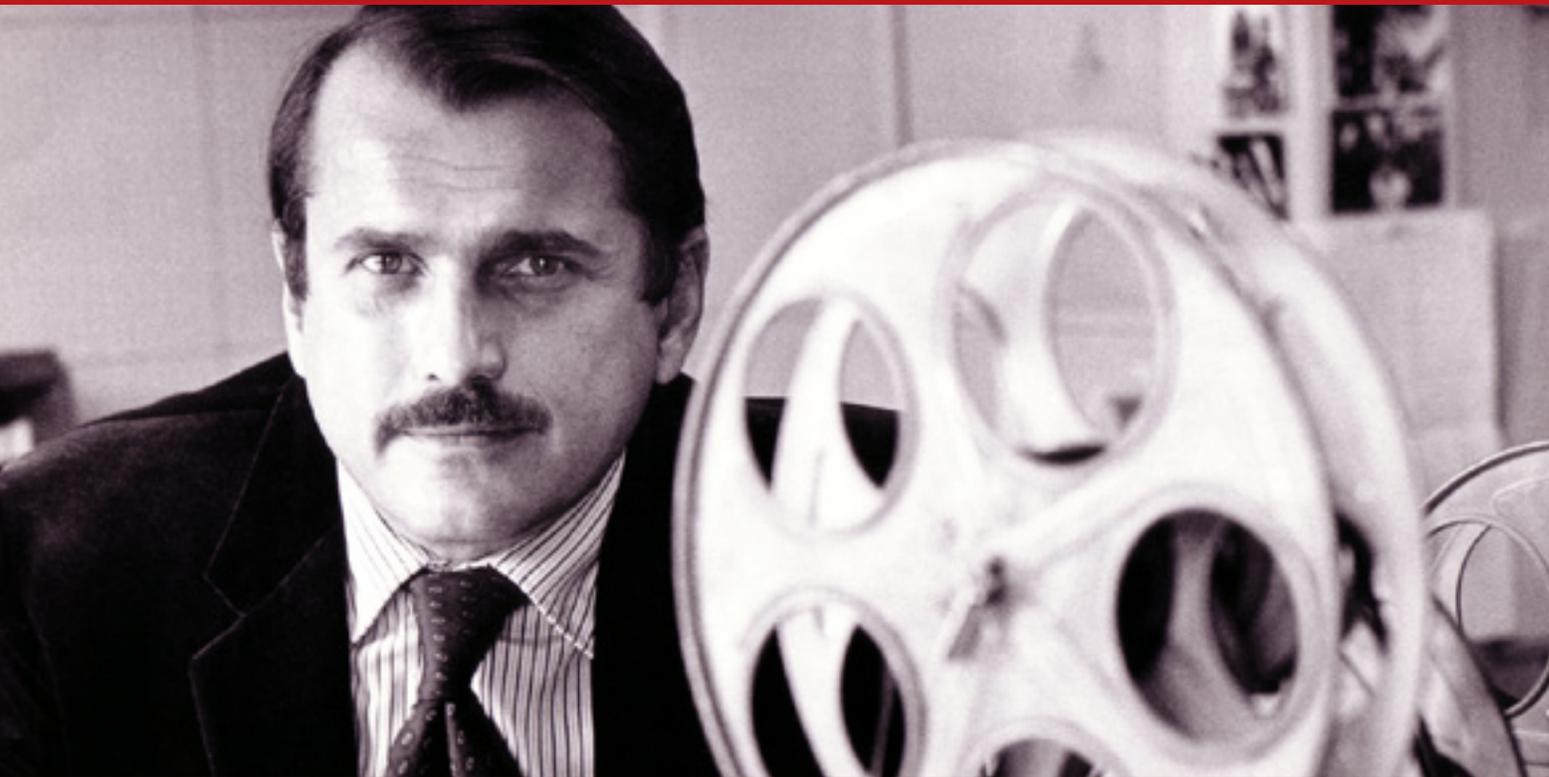


Andy Kuehn idealized democracy as the mechanism by which citizens decide issues of substance and demonstrate their capacity for self-rule. He had faith, born from personal witness, that the “arc of history bends toward justice,” and confidence in the ultimate wisdom of electoral systems operated by free, informed and interested men and women. We his friends, his colleagues, his family and his beneficiaries remember him for his charm, his talent, his joie de vivre, generosity and intelligence, but this year, especially, we miss his optimism and his faith in the future. In the wake of a nasty, tainted but successful campaign by the least qualified and most disreputable person to ever stand for American high-office, we wish we had his perspective.

We dedicate this, the yearly newsletter of the Andrew J. Kuehn, Jr. Foundation, to a man who protested for civil rights, against the Vietnam War, against state criminality, in favor of women’s rights and full membership for gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender persons in the American polity. Andy

used his oratory, charisma, clout, wealth and mastery of audio-visual communication to advocate for a world in which opportunity is shared, equality is presumed and achievement is dependent on character, effort and talent, not assigned by race, birth or privilege. Though a lifelong Democrat, Andy was no partisan; rather, he welcomed vigorous debate among parties and stakeholders and was ever prepared to extend a hand to those of good will in pursuit of the common good. But he was implacable in his rejection of villainy, meanness, lies and ignorance. In his name and in his spirit, the AJK Foundation pledges to support his vision and to resist the sirens of resentment and ideologies hostile to truth, decency and the American way.

It is with enduring pride that we share the work of the AJK Foundation as it supports education, film preservation, artistic creation, diversity, uplift and humanist values at significant and enduring institutions of learning and culture here in Southern California.



Andresena, Debbie, Alan & Will

The world-renowned UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television is an interdisciplinary professional school that develops outstanding storytellers, industry leaders and scholars whose voices enlighten, engage and inspire the world. For its diverse mix of undergraduate and graduate students, TFT offers courses in acting, directing, writing, producing, animation, cinematography, digital arts, lighting design, set design, costume design, sound design and Moving Image Archive Studies.

The school confers BA, MA and PhD degrees in Theater and Performance Studies as well as in Cinema & Media Studies, empowering gifted, creative and ambitious students in their pursuit of careers in theater, motion picture arts and digital media.

TRANSFORMING HOLLYWOOD 7: DIVERSIFYING ENTERTAINMENT

For a seventh year, AJK was the Sustaining Sponsor of *Transforming Hollywood*, held at USC’s Annenberg School of Communications and Journalism. This annual symposium, produced by two of the world’s finest film schools, explores changes in the American entertainment industries by way of critical encounters among media creators, producers and executives and leading researchers and scholars in film, media and cultural studies.

In 2016, this interdisciplinary summit examined diversity in Hollywood and beyond. Panels posed the question of who is being represented in popular media – and how.

Keynote speaker, Professor Stacy L. Smith, Director of Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiatives, gave a “State of the Field” address, presenting the Comprehensive Annenberg Report on Diversity (CARD). Panels explored topics such as the importance of inclusion, alternatives within social media, changing the script and moving from stereotypes to complex characters. A conversation with Melissa Rosenberg, series creator and showrunner of Marvel’s *Jessica Jones*, moderated by Henry Jenkins and Prof. Smith concluded the event.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, FILM & TELEVISION (TFT)

[Transforming Hollywood 7,
the Conference Poster]



We invite you to virtually attend the event:

[click here](#)

and

[click here](#)

[Panel #1 from Transforming Hollywood 7,
with USC's Henry Jenkins moderating]



[Panel #4 from Transforming Hollywood 7,
moderated by Variety's Maureen Ryan]

OUTFEST

In 1982, UCLA Students founded Outfest as a driver of LGBTQ equality. Through the creation, distribution and preservation of moving images, Outfest nourishes LGBTQ community by presenting filmed and videotaped stories from the lives of diverse populations. It preserves the past, celebrates the present and nurtures the future by enabling artistic expression of gender, sexuality, LGBTQ culture and its transformative social impact on the world. While inspiring visual storytellers, Outfest uses the power of movies to promote acceptance and equality for all LGBTQ people.

Over the past three decades, Outfest has showcased thousands of films from around the world, educated and mentored hundreds of emerging filmmakers and protected more than 20,000 LGBTQ films and videos. Key programs include the annual Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival, the largest such event in the world; Outfest Fusion, a yearly festival of films by and about LGBTQ People of Color; Outfest Forward, dedicated to educating and mentoring the next generation of film artists; and the UCLA Legacy Project, the only program on earth dedicated to preserving LGBTQ films for future generations.

The Outfest UCLA Legacy Project is the world's foremost LGBTQ archive and restoration program for film, tv and media. Since its founding, the Legacy Project has amassed more than 36,000 titles and painstakingly restored 24 essential films.

For the past decade, funding from the Andrew J. Kuehn Foundation has financed the work of restoring and preserving significant films, prior to their being made available to audiences interested in viewing and learning about the art, culture and history of LGBTQ people.

“[Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community (1985)]



This year, the Legacy Project completed a 2K HD restoration of Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman* (1996), the first feature-length film directed by an openly lesbian African American filmmaker. Debuting at the 2016 Berlin International Film Festival, the newly restored film toured festivals worldwide prior to VOD release in 2017.



| [The Watermelon Woman (1996)]

After five years of unstinting support by AJK, the restoration of *Different from the Others* (1919) is now complete. Recognized as the first gay and lesbian film, the film was cheered by German audiences at the Berlin International Film Festival, 97 years after its original premier.



| [Different from the Others (1919)]

The UCLA Film & Television Archive is the second largest moving image archive in the United States and the world's largest university-owned repository of media materials. An unparalleled resource for UCLA's department of Theater, Film & TV, the Archive is a destination for visual storytellers, film historians, students of media and working professionals.

Combining gifts and acquisitions from all the major studios and television networks, leading producers and legendary figures from the history of broadcasting, the Archive prioritizes preservation and restoration. As the collection grows, iconic materials are continually returned to public view and made available for scholarly research. Screenings of rare and important art-house and archival works at the [Archive's Billy Wilder Theater](#) make this superb, Westwood venue a global destination for film lovers.

OUTFEST UCLA LEGACY PROJECT SCREENING SERIES

Thanks to funding from the Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation, UCLA Film & Television Archive exhibits LGBTQ media, presenting important, topical and entertaining programs as part of the Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Screening Series.

The Archive opened the series with two anniversary screenings: writer-director Deepa Mehta's groundbreaking feature *Fire* (1996); and Lizzie Borden's *Regrouping* (1976). Set and shot in India, *Fire*'s portrayal of a love affair between women was controversial at its release 20 years ago. It garnered international plaudits for storytelling, before winning the *Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature* at Outfest 1997. In April, the Archive celebrated the 40th anniversary of the release of *Regrouping*, with director Borden on hand to conduct Q & A with the audience. Borden's debut feature is a rarely screened landmark in lesbian-feminist film and a defining entry in her distinguished filmography.

Later in 2016, audiences were treated to a screening of *Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community* (1985), from director Greta Schiller and co-director Robert Rosenberg. Re-mastered for the 30th anniversary of the Teddy

Awards at the Berlin International Film Festival, *Before Stonewall* examines the rise of queer consciousness in America. Its use of archival footage—notably scenes from *Different From the Others* (1919)—underlines the necessity of preserving and restoring LGBTQ media. Both Schiller and Rosenberg attended the event to discuss the film and its impact.



[Fire (1996)]

[Regrouping (1976)]

LOS ANGELES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (LALA)

Located in downtown Los Angeles between Montecito & Lincoln Heights, the Los Angeles Leadership Academy prepares over 900 economically disadvantaged young people in grades K-12 for success as students and citizens. Dedicated to academic and personal development, LALA nurtures achievement, engagement and character.

LALA culture is defined by real and enduring relationships among students, teachers and staff. Attention to individual needs, abilities and interests supports a community of capable, self-directed learners. Integrated curriculum and performance-based assessment promote critical thinking and intellectual depth, breadth and agility. Opportunities to work with community leaders on the issues affecting student lives provide practical applications of classroom lessons and skills training.

At LALA, every student is asked to embrace the principles of Community, Empowerment, Well-Being, Creation, Love, Integrity, Scholarship, Activism and Courage. Creating a just and humane world is an integral part of the educational mission.

In 2016, LA Leadership Academy students in the upper school used AJK funded equipment, software and audio-visual training to produce a documentary about the school's farm, emphasizing its *Farm to Fork* initiative. Britt Browne, manager of LA Leadership's urban-agriculture operation, is directing the film project with students providing cinematography, sound engineering, editorial supervision and all production staffing.

In addition to growing food, LA Leadership teaches cooking and nutrition classes, with teacher John Pleshette welcoming the student production into his kitchen classroom. Celebrated LA chef, Joseph Centano, who buys Farm produce for his four restaurants, makes a cameo appearance on behalf of LALA's cooking, nutrition and urban farm enterprise. Students are preparing to enter the soon-to-be-finished documentary in festivals and deploy it as a fundraising tool for the farm as a critical extension of the school's educational, civic and community empowerment mission.



[LALA student filmmaker working on a documentary about the school's urban farm]



[Students prepare and film what they harvested from LALA's urban farm]

OCSA

Founded in 1987, the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) provides a creative, challenging and nurturing environment for bright and talented students as well as an unparalleled preparation for higher education and professional attainment in the arts. OCSA consistently ranks among the top schools in the State of California.

The only specialized arts program of its kind in the region, OCSA offers tuition-free academic and arts instruction to students from Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. A non-profit, OCSA relies on private and corporate donations to finance its many arts conservatories.

Serving 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from over 100 cities across Southern California, OCSA places personal growth and educational achievement first. Excellence, innovation, professionalism and integrity are expected of every student.

The OCSA Film & Television conservatory (FTV) has been a recipient of grants from the Andrew J Kuehn, Jr. Foundation since 2007. AJK support finances equipment, curriculum development, facilities enhancement and student enrichment.



[OCSA Film, Television & Video Conservatory Students in Denali, Alaska]

SUMMER 2016 ALASKA DOCUMENTARY TRIP

Over 10 tightly scheduled days, eighteen FTV students traveled from Anchorage to Denali, Fairbanks to Valdez, hiking, kayaking, rafting and filming. They captured footage for documentaries on animal rehabilitation, conservation, earthquake geology and food distribution. They even completed an on-site service project.



[Film, TV & Video Conservatory Students made time to serve others during their Summer documentary film-making trip to Alaska]

Partnering with *Building Leadership Integrity Through Service* and *Girls, Inc.*, FTV hosted “Doc Squad”—a two-week documentary film camp. With teacher Michael Brown advising and 4 students mentoring, 12 girls from Girls Inc. made short films about Orange County non-profits, including the Pacific Marine Mammal Center and Pathways to Hope. Read all about it in the [OC Register](#).

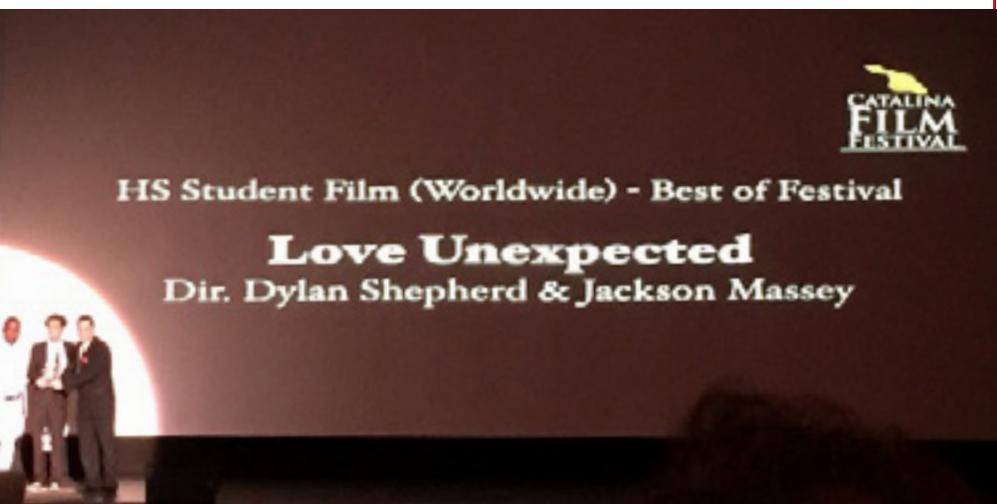
“DOC SQUAD” FILM CAMP FOR GIRLS

FTV AT FESTIVALS

FTV students screened their work at the Newport Beach Film Festival as well as at the Austin, LA and Seoul Film Festivals (where the junior class film, *Axiom*, won in the *Best Teen* category).



[FTV Filmmakers making a splash on the Festival Circuit]



[FTV production, *Love Unexpected*, tallied 1.4 million YouTube views and screened widely, winning *Best High School Film* at the [Catalina Film Festival](#)]

FTV AND AJK IN 2016

With its latest grant, FTV is constructing a new foley stage and sound mixing room. Featuring sound-proofing and the latest equipment, this facility is destined to become the post-production hub for the conservatory.

AJK funding allowed the purchase of two more editing computers, enabling students to process 4K cinema footage and perform color correction. These computers have been installed in editing suites bearing Andy's name.

With over 100 student projects slated for production, including PSAs, narrative shorts, TV shows, documentaries and a new web series, FTV is educating the next generation of entertainment artists and professionals. You're invited to attend the FTV Winter and Spring Cineplex Festivals at Chapman University's Folino Theatre.



[A still from the FTV student feature *Epilogue*]