

EOFF launches filmmaker residency program

■ Informational Zoom meeting Jan. 22; application deadline Feb. 21

LA GRANDE — The Eastern Oregon Film Festival, a La Grande-based nonprofit, unveiled a new filmmaker residency program in a press release Friday, Jan. 15.

The residency is a month-long retreat for writers and directors to receive designated time and space to work on feature-length screenplays. The application for attendance opened Sunday, Jan. 17, on filmfreeway.com and closes Feb. 21 with an early bird deadline of Feb. 7.

The goal of the four-week program is for artists to walk away

with a draft that has the potential to be produced in Oregon in the coming years, and for attendees to learn about resources and opportunities available for filmmaking in Eastern Oregon.

"Residencies are a sacred time and space where creatives have a sole mission: write and develop their ideas," said H. Nelson Tracey, a Los Angeles-based filmmaker and EOFF alumni who is helping to develop the program.

"It's a step away from inevitable commitments and distractions in life at home, and an added purpose

of creation that can be difficult to conjure when left to one's own devices."

The Eastern Oregon Film Festival team is working with its partners, including Eastern Oregon University, to connect students and residency filmmakers through integrated academic events as well as social and engagement events.

However, commitments will be minimal, allowing participants the time and space to immerse themselves in their stories

The press release emphasized that the program is meant to be "a

dedicated and focused time for writers to produce work in whatever form they see fit. Unlike most artist residencies, this is specifically geared toward filmmakers."

The visiting artists will rely on hq, a creative digital media studio in downtown La Grande, as a hub for creativity and collaboration. EOFF staff are working on local lodging and food options to support the filmmakers.

"The amount of support for this

program has been awesome," festival director Christopher Jennings said in the press release. "We have connected with so many wonderful programs around the Pacific Northwest in our development journey."

An informational Zoom meeting begins at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, for all interested applicants.

To register for Friday's meeting, more details and a link to the residency application, go to www.eo-filmfest.com/filmmaker-residency.



LIBERTY THEATRE CINEMA PROJECT & EOFF 2021

EOFF anticipates serving up some variation of the 2021 festival in La Grande's historic Liberty Theatre. The Liberty Theatre Foundation has been hard at work ensuring that construction is complete and occupancy obtained, according to the EOFF website, but projection, screen and audio are still needed.

EOFF has raised money over the last couple of years and is actively continuing to do so, also working on securing grants to fund the remaining portion of the roughly \$75,000 project. To specifically support this effort, donations may be sent to:

Eastern Oregon Film Festival
112 Depot St.
La Grande, OR 97850

To learn more about the renovation of the historic Liberty Theatre, visit <http://libertyonadams.org>.

EOFF will put your charitable donation to work. EOFF is a 501c-3 and your donation will be tax deductible.

The 12th annual festival is set for Oct. 21-23. Planning and fundraising for this year's three-day cultural destination event is underway. EOFF welcomes volunteers and sponsors as well as donations.



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