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Moviemakers getting tips ahead of film festival

Democrat staff report

Budding Tallahassee filmmakers took part in a seminar today to help prepare them for the upcoming 24-Hour Film Contest.

The seminar, held at Tallahassee Community College, offered tips on script-writing, filming, casting and editing. A second seminar is set for April 12. The contest is part of the Tallahassee Film Festival, set for May 15-17.

“We wanted to give the opportunity to people who are not familiar with filmmaking to make a film,” said George Fernandez, host of the seminars and a volunteer for the festival. “Creativity is not locked into people who have access to cameras. If you have a story, you can make a film.”

Two weeks before the festival, contestants will be given a common theme for their short film. They’ll have only one day to create and submit their film.

Teams up to five people are allowed to make the films. But they won’t have big Hollywood budgets — the films must be between three and five minutes long, and no more than \$100 can be spent on them.

The films will be featured on Tallahassee.com, and members of the public will be able to vote for their favorites. The winner will be announced during the festival.

“Part of the mission of the Tallahassee Film Festival is to expose the Southeast to the cinematic arts,” Fernandez said in a release. “The 24-Hour Film Contest will help make that mission a reality.”

Also, novice and experienced filmmakers alike are invited to submit longer films to show at the festival. Submissions have already come in from as far away as Australia.

“It’s wide open to everyone,” said Jeanne Curtin, president of the Tallahassee Film Festival.

The film festival is an effort of the Knight Creative Communities Initiative, a year-long program designed to inspire young, creative professionals to help drive the Tallahassee economy.