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Miami International Film Festival, SAG Awards, The Oscars! Highlight February

Showbusiness and Media Events

By The Actor's Checklist

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The Mobile Exposure handheld video program is an exploration of the potentials of mobile video and culture and is running now through February 6 at Microcinema in Houston and on the Web. Concert Industry Consortium, founded to foster greater communication among the key professionals within the concert business and also between the concert business and other elements of the music business, meets through February 4 at Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. The "BMI See It Hear First Rock Showcase", a new showcase, gets underway at Smith's Olde Bar in Atlanta on February 3. The San Francisco Independent Film Festival will screen 100 films and videos by independent filmmakers from all over the country and around the globe, as well as networking parties every night. Miami International Film Festival will focus on Ibero-American cinema when it runs February 4 to 13 at Miami Dade College. Florida Film & Entertainment Professional Development Series are workshops scheduled during the first three days of the Miami International Film Festival at Miami Dade College. Daniel Knauf, creator/executive producer of HBO's "Carnivale," speaks at the Alameda Writers Group meeting. His talk on "Surviving Success," covers what a writer should do after the first sale, in a talk at Glendale Central Library in Glendale on February 5. The 11th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards takes place February 5 in Shrine Exposition Center, Los Angeles. The DIY (Do It Yourself) Music Festival is part of the DIY Convention, geared entirely to indie artists in Film, Music and Books, running February 8 to 12 in Los Angeles. World of Comedy International Film Festival (different from the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival) opens February 9 in Toronto at various venues. A GRAMMY Salute To Gospel Music will be given at West Angeles Church of God in Christ Cathedral in Los Angeles, February 10. Berlin International Film Festival, Berlin, presents more than 30 short films from the American reconstruction programme after the Second World War, from February 10 to 20. A MusiCares Person of the Year Tribute Dinner honors GRAMMY-nominated composer and pop legend Brian Wilson on February 11 at the Paladium in Hollywood. BAFTA: British Academy of Film & Television Arts Film Awards, is slated for February 12 in London. The 47th Annual Grammy Awards will be given in the Staples Center in Los Angeles on February 13. 57th Annual Writers Guild Awards will be

simultaneously presented February 19 at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles, and Pierre Hotel in New York. A World Airline Entertainment Association TV Market convention from February 21 to 22, will be given at Hilton Brighton Metropole in Brighton. The Multicultural Motion Picture Association Oscar Week Luncheon is slated for Peninsula Hotel, Beverly Hills on February 24. "Chicago Writing Sessions: Live Performances, Hot Songs, and Great Networking Opportunities!!" features BMI hip-hop consultant Kevin Shine and other artists in a February 26 session at Hinge Studios in Chicago. Ceremony for Spirit Awards, in Santa Monica, is on February 26. The Oscars! The 77th Academy Awards is set for February 27 at the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood.

Many of festivals and conventions listed have a submission process for indie and/or performing artists to take part in. Further information can be found on the "Media, Entertainment and Performing Arts Industry News and Events" page at <http://www.actorschecklist.com/news.html>. And also check the listings we have of US and UK television shows seeking participants. View the selection at: <http://www.actorschecklist.com/resources/tvtickets.html>.

A resource for all performing artists, models, advertising and PR executives, entertainers, recording professionals and Reality TV fanatics reviewing the best practices, and rule of thumb information for starting and gaining momentum for a career in modeling, singing, dancing, acting, reality tv, musical bands, comedy, hip-hop, indie production and the performing arts in general. <http://www.actorschecklist.com>.

Color Blind Filmmakers

By Roger Unger

Color Blind Filmmakers
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Machiavelli Hangman

It has been the fascination of humankind to capture the essence of emotion and portray it in such away that it can be appreciated universally. That is the job of an artist, to epitomize the passion so that it is understood a thousand years from now. This hasn't been more true for no truer an artist than the filmmaker. Nowadays, filmmakers are abundant in the sun-scorched landscape of Los Angeles, most of them from the local universities and colleges. Filmmaking has become such a specialized field that some universities dedicate entire departments and degrees to it. Many of the professionals like Steven Spielberg and George Lucas have been known to make great contributions to these institutions.

Enter,

Shervin Youssefian and Danny Simonzad of California

State University, Northridge. Two filmmakers or I should say artists who have made their stamp on the celluloid scene on many platforms. These award-winning artists came together to produce a work

that could stand the test of not just time, but the test of Film Production 250 taught by their professor Nate Thomas. You see, they are not just artists but students of the craft of filmmaking. As I watched the film they had made, uniquely titled "Colorblind", I knew they were no mere students but rather inconspicuous teachers. The subtle humor, the infinite warmth and the deep wisdom that delicately emanates from "Colorblind" provide the evidence for my words.

"We didn't even have a script," boasts Danny Simonzad, the co-director, "we shot what we felt." They have a unique relationship. As I spoke to them more I realized, that both being very talented and oddly humorous, had very unique characteristics about them. Shervin, not as loud as Danny, was very quick witted with a creative energy about him. Danny, not as subtle as Shervin, had a more direct sense of humor that matched his laughter as it carried down the hall. But you could definitely feel the warmth from these two, especially Danny being bigger than Shervin. They met at Glendale Community College in 1997, taking a media course. "Shervin was editing his project on one of those old VHS A to B editing machines. I was impressed by his work. And he was impressed that I was impressed by his work," recalls Danny. They hit it off from then on, collaborating on project after project including "Colorblind". They specifically took their production class so they could work together on films. As it turns out, it was a good thing they did manage to work together, the film they made was a hard act to follow. It was so good, that the film was accepted as their thesis film even though they were at the junior level in the university. "Colorblind" became a tremendous achievement in filmmaking not just at the University level but amongst the festival circuit as well.

The more I was enthralled by the film the more I knew that you cannot be taught the innate talent that was flashing on the screen. Which explained the awards and enumerable film festival selections. Ranging from the Hollywood Press Association Award to winning best short film at the Davis Film festival, "Colorblind" shined. It was accepted to the Los Angeles International Film Festival, The New

Orleans Film Festival, the San Diego International Film Festival, (add more festivals). One after another, these festivals were testament that these filmmakers were not just artist with potential, but contenders of today. Keep an eye out at the multiplexes, and stop to read the fine print on the movies posters or the credits at the end of a film to find the names Shervin Youssefian and Danny Simonzad in bold, exuberant letters. While Simonzad is taking off on a successful commercial production career, Youssefian is in pre-production for feature film entitled

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Hangman starring a few big names. I'm sure everyone will soon realize what I already know about these two brilliant filmmakers.

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