

# DOCUTAH FILM FESTIVAL SET TO DEBUT IN 2010

by Lisa Halliday

(ST. GEORGE, Utah – January 8, 2010) Have you ever seen a film that made you laugh? Cry? Taught you something about yourself? Or about the world around you? Documentary films play an important part in the way we communicate with one another.

It is that genre that we will be celebrating at the First Annual DOCUTAH International Documentary Film Festival, which is set to debut in southwestern Utah Sept. 16-25, 2010. DOCUTAH is sponsored by Dixie State College of Utah, The Center for Education, Business and the Arts (CEBA), St. George City, St. George Convention and Tourism Office, Kanab City, and the Kane County Office of Tourism and Film Commission.

DOCUTAH is a documentary only film festival, nestled in the red rocks and slot canyons of majestic southern Utah. By blending the attractions of the area with a love of documentaries, we hope that many professional and student filmmakers embrace what DOCUTAH has to offer. Brace yourselves because DOCUTAH has arrived—now and for the future; 2010 is just the beginning.

Being one of the few college-based festivals, much of DOCUTAH will take place on the Dixie State College of Utah campus in St. George, including master class seminars taught by internationally renowned guest lecturers who are industry professionals. With a focus on independent films looking for distribution, DOCUTAH will also feature a distributor's marketplace – an invaluable networking hub.

Two spectacular gala events will be held in majestic outdoor settings. The opening gala, to be held on Thursday, September 16th, 2010, at the Tuacahn Amphitheater and Center for the Arts, will be a night not soon forgotten. "Tuacahn" comes from a Mayan word meaning "Canyon of the Gods." Built in the shadow of 1500-foot spectacular red rock cliffs, Tuacahn was created to awaken the nobility of the human soul and transmit light and hope to people everywhere through the arts and education. A special closing gala (Friday, September 24th) will be held on Friday, September 24th, 2010, in Kanab, Utah.

Come for the films...come for the view...this region's geography has always been a big draw.

Outdoor screenings will be held at the St. George Town Square, which features the 45-foot Heritage Tower with four, eight-foot stained glass windows that depict moments in St. George's history known as "Portholes of the Past." A special screening will also be at the Dixie State College O.C. Tanner Amphitheater—a stunning 2,000-seat venue surrounded by the cliffs of Zion National Park—in Springdale, Utah.

Home to the stars in Utah's Little Hollywood, Parry Lodge will serve as a DOCUTAH festival "hub" in Kanab, Utah. Founded in 1931, Parry Lodge has hosted some of the biggest names from the golden age of Hollywood. John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Gregory Peck, Maureen O'Hara, Anne Bancroft, Dean Martin, Lana Turner, and Clint Eastwood are just a few of the hundreds of stars that stayed at Parry's while filming in and around Kanab.

Films will be screened at the Old Barn Playhouse, which sits in the center of the Parry Lodge complex. It is nearly 100 years old and was once used to stable famous horses for their famous riders. Roy Roger's "Trigger", the Lone Ranger's "Silver," and Tonto's "Scout" are just a few of its former equine guests. In addition, Frontier Movie Town will host an outdoor screening in the midst of historic movie sets. This venue keeps alive the spirit of the American West and is the only place where you can still visit sets from Kane County's "Little Hollywood" glory days.

For more information on film schedules and locations, tickets and previews, or to sign up as a volunteer, visit [www.docutah.com](http://www.docutah.com).

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