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Real Museum Stories From America’s Heartland

DALLAS, TX — In 2010, Media 13 will be celebrating the power of museums as repositories of cultural capital with a major 12-part documentary series entitled Museums of the Heartland. Where are the stories? Since we were children, the words “once upon a time” have resonated deeply. Can you envision a world without story? Such is the appeal of Museums of the Heartland. It is a series about the stories of our lives—and our culture—presented through museums.

Journeying primarily around Texas and Oklahoma, with an occasional foray into other heartland states, the half-hour show visits museums with recognizable names like the Bob Bullock Texas State Museum in Austin and the African American Museum at Fair Park. There are also other names—less recognizable—like the Toy and Action Figure Museum, the East Texas Oil Museum and the Medicine Mound with stunning, unforgettable stories.

“Behind every museum is the energy of a passionate founder, a relentless curator, hard-working docents and a spate of patrons who bring it all together. Museums—both large and small—are powerful protectors of the American experience because they...
Real Museums Continued

protect and present the story of our nation,” said Creator and Executive Producer Lindell Singleton. The pilot episode features the Texas Heritage Museum in Hillsboro, Texas.

“This museum is remarkable,” said Singleton. “The experience struck me because it is expansive, yet intensely personal. The exhibits capture the stories of our wars, but present them only through the eyes of Texans. This really was the ideal choice for the pilot.”

John Versluis, executive director at Texas Heritage Museum offered this: “Museums are more than repositories of information and interesting artifacts, but instead a collective environment where cultures and generations meet on equal footing to share knowledge and new experiences. Museums of the Heartland will encourage visitation which could be across the city, the neighborhood or down the interstate.”

About the Production Company

Media 13 is an industry-leading creative firm that leverages its unrivaled reach and access to create and produce compelling content across all its divisions: narrative filmmaking, integrated long form content, commercials, music video and broadcast television. Visionary Director King Hollis formed Media 13 in 2005. Widely acknowledged for establishing the next level in Texas independent film production, Hollis’ body of work has redeployed excellence across multiple genres.


Media 13 is based in Dallas, Texas.

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Hill College Press to Offer New Book

Continuing a tradition dating back to 1964, Hill College Press is in the process of publishing a book that contributes to the mission of the Texas Heritage Museum—Texas and Texans in wartime and the effects on society today. Sunrise! Governor Bill Daniel and the Second Liberation of Guam, by Dr. David Gracy, II, is the 45th in the HCP series of publications will be available for circulation in early 2010. The book is a study of the evolving political development of the American territory of Guam after its liberation from Japanese occupation at the end of World War II.

The study concentrates on developments during the governorship of Bill Daniel from 1961 to 1963. A prominent Texas legislator, rancher and businessman who was the last appointed governor of Guam, Daniel worked to reshape the political infrastructure and improve the economy of the island, including securing the passage of legislation by Congress permitting the citizens of Guam to elect their governor. Gracy, a noted historian and occupant of the Bill Daniel professorship in archival studies at The University of Texas Austin, looks upon this development as a “liberation”.

The contents of Sunrise! Governor Bill Daniel and the Second Liberation of Guam will include a foreword by Madeleine Z. Bordallo, current member of Congress, representing Guam; 73 photographs and maps and the story of Daniel’s administration. Announcements will be circulated when the book is off the press.

THM Curator Announces New Exhibit

There is a new exhibit on display at the Texas Heritage Museum. “WWII on the Home Front: Sweetheart Collectibles” showcases souvenirs and small tokens sent home by American servicemen overseas or on base during WWII. These items provided a connection to the home front for those serving abroad and allowed family members to show their patriotism and pride. Artifacts on display include jewelry, pins, pillow covers, pennants and banners commemorating the war effort.

Also on display are photos of the Ramirez family of Hillsboro, who sent seven sons to fight in WWII. This exhibit will be on display in the temporary gallery just off the lobby through Dec. 11. Please drop by and see us!

Historical Research Center News

Education is the name of the game in the Historical Research Center. Professor Lou Ann Everett’s American History honors class from Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas, recently paid its annual visit to the HRC to research primary sources on Civil War veterans that are buried in the North Texas area. Many interesting facts were discovered about these gentlemen’s service in the war and their lives upon returning to Texas. On Nov. 18, Anita Tufts, archivist and librarian at THM, will give a presentation on the Kitikiti’sh to the students of St. Monica School in Dallas. Several hands-on activities using authentic materials portraying the lives of these indigenous Americans are planned for the day.

If you are interested in volunteering at the museum or research center, please contact Kendall Milton at (254) 659-7755 or Anita Tufts at (254) 659-7757.