

**From:** [Leah D Nixon](#)  
**To:** [Archive](#)  
**Subject:** Ferris Hosts 10th Video Festival  
**Date:** 04/20/2010 03:27 PM

---

Included below is a press release regarding the 10<sup>th</sup> Ferris Video Festival. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release  
April 20, 2010

Leah Nixon  
Ferris State University  
Assistant Director of News Services  
[leahnixon@ferris.edu](mailto:leahnixon@ferris.edu), (231) 591-5604

### **Ferris Hosts 10<sup>th</sup> Video Festival**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will kick off its 10<sup>th</sup> Video Festival on April 22 in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center (IRC).

This two-day event hosted by the Ferris Media Communications Association and the West Michigan Film and Video Alliance (WMFVA) will feature film screenings and professional presentations for students and the public alike.

The festival provides an opportunity to discuss topics relevant to the film and video industry, while also allowing Ferris grads and faculty to relay the findings of their involvement in the field. Current and potential students will be able to see how others have used skills they developed in Ferris's program in their work in the industry.

Of the films that will be shown, one, "Valley of Angels," was written, produced and directed by 1994 Ferris Television and Digital Media Production (TDMP) graduate Jon Rosten. The film stars veteran actor Danny Trejo ("Once Upon a Time in Mexico," "Con Air," "The Replacement Killers") and George Katt, who won the Best Breakthrough Actor 2007 award at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival for his role as Zeus in "Valley of Angels."

Rosten's film follows the travails of a young, morally-conflicted drug dealer in Los Angeles. Rosten has won three awards for the film at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, including Grand Jury Award for Best Feature.

The festival begins at 6 p.m. with a showing of the film and continues Friday, April 23, at 10 a.m. with a keynote address by Rosten. In "Becoming an Indie Film Producer," Rosten describes the journey from Ferris student to Californian producer. He states, "The changes that I've seen have been absolutely amazing."

In addition to Rosten's address, video festival participants can look forward to presentations by Marty Hogan, 1991 TDMP graduate; Kevin Lesser, 1992 TDMP graduate of the year; Rick Hert, executive director of the West Michigan Film Office; Michelle Yamazaki, vice president of Tool Farm; Ferris faculty members Fred Wyman and Connie Morcom; and a panel of collected presenters who will discuss careers in television, film and digital media.

For more information on the video festival, or for a calendar of events, visit [www.ferris.edu](http://www.ferris.edu) or contact Wyman, TDMP chair, at (231) 591-2714 or MCA Advisor Glen Okonoski at (231) 591-2709.

- 30 -

Leah Nixon  
Assistant Director of News Services  
University Advancement & Marketing  
420 Oak Street, PRK 101  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031  
(231) 591-5604 / fax (231) 591-2985