

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006

For Immediate Release

THE REBIRTH OF THE CINEMATOGRAPH

(Saint Louis): “After more than a century, film is finally dying,” writes Fran Molloy of *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Film critics, scholars and filmmakers have long discussed the death of the traditional film format in light of emerging digital technologies. J.R. Wudel, Senior at Webster University, took action toward the death of motion film by recreating the silent-era cinematograph camera. On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Mr. Wudel presents his cinematograph in the tradition of Auguste and Louis Lumiere, proving that film is, indeed, alive and still viable.

The development of new technologies causes a change in the manner in which we appreciate media communications. John Vivian, professor of journalism at Winona State University and author of the text *The Media of Mass Communication*, describes that the development of Television, its electronic technology and rise in popularity, has had great impact on other forms of mass media: forcing the demassification of Radio, Magazines and Film Production. With the development of digital technology the chemical medium of motion film once more faces a challenge, as many low-budget producers turn to digital formats to cut production costs. However, the quality of film and its pleasing esthetics, for many critics, remain superior to the emerging digital formats—as Molloy cites, “there is no doubt that digital cinema lacks the romance of celluloid.” Therefore, can an independent production exploit the photographic advantages of the chemical medium in a cost-efficient, effective and elegant manner?

To answer this question Jeremiah Wudel, Media Communications major at Webster University, revisited the dawn of film technology when silent film cameras could both capture images and project them before for an audience by constructing his own version of the silent-era film camera. Mr. Wudel personally developed and edited the footage shot with this modern cinematograph camera and presents his work Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm, in Room 123 of the Sverdrup Business and Technology Complex on the Webster Groves Campus. The presentation will consist of a direct comparison of modern digital video media to Mr. Wudel’s efforts with the chemical medium of motion film on the basis of quality, cost in terms of time and money and production effect.

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FILM STUDENT RECREATES THE SILENT-ERA FILM EXPERIENCE

(Saint Louis): J.R. Wudel, film Student at Webster University, recreated the silent-era film experience. Mr. Wudel revisited the dawn of film technology, when silent film cameras were capable of both capturing images and projecting them before for an audience, by constructing his own version of the cinematograph camera. He will be presenting his work Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00pm, in Room 123 of the Sverdrup Business and Technology Complex on the Webster Groves Campus.

Mr. Wudel began his film studies under the guidance of renowned film historian and critic Jeanine Basinger at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. In search of a program with a more solid foundation in film production fundamentals, Mr. Wudel took his undergraduate studies across the United States to Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California. This project, “The Rebirth of the Cinematograph,” represents the culmination of Mr. Wudel’s senior overview for the completion of a Bachelor’s of Arts in Media Communications from Webster University.

“The Rebirth of the Cinematograph” explores the question faced by many of today’s filmmakers in the light of emerging digital technologies—is it possible for an independent production to exploit the photographic advantages of the 35mm chemical medium in a cost-efficient, effective and elegant manner? The presentation will consist of a direct comparison of digital media to Mr. Wudel’s efforts with the chemical medium of motion film on the basis of quality, cost in terms of time and money and production effect.