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06-207

October 10, 2006

For Immediate Release:

HOLLYWOOD: HATE IT, LOVE IT OR HATE THE MESSENGER?

CHARLESTON -- Some people hate Hollywood, some love it and some just hate the people who report on it.

Three Eastern Illinois University alumni -- one a film festival director; another, a movie executive; and the third, an award-winning film critic -- will direct their focus on that statement during a panel discussion titled "Hollywood Jihad: The War for American Values."

The event is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, in Eastern's Roberson Auditorium, Lumpkin Hall, Room 2030. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dann Gire, a veteran journalist and Daily Herald film critic, currently serves as president and founding director of the Chicago Film Critics Association. He has won the prestigious Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism six times in his more than 30 years as a journalist. He is a graduate of Charleston High School, as well as EIU.

Andrew Rodgers, director of the River Run International Film Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., previously served as publicity coordinator for the Sundance Film Festival. The Champaign native also worked as an entertainment writer for the Chicago Tribune and Zap2it.com.

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HOLLYWOOD

Luke Ryan, an executive at MTV Films, a studio division of Paramount Pictures, previously served as director of development at New Line Cinema. The Mattoon native – and winner of the 2006 EIU Young Alumnus of the Year Award – currently has a feature movie script, “Humbuggin,” in development at New Line.

The discussion, sponsored by the EIU Department of Journalism, will be moderated by faculty member Brian Poulter. Audience members will be invited to participate in the discussion.

For information, contact Poulter at bpoulter@eiu.edu or 217-581-7120.