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# Graffiti

**West Virginia's news alternative**

The state-wide source for entertainment, news and commentary

## Graffiti Classifieds



**TO ORDER**

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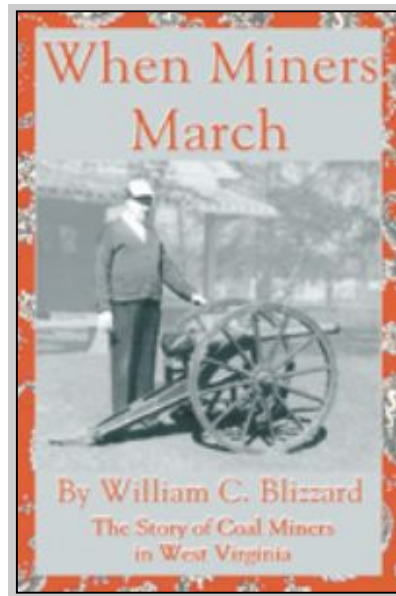
## 'When Miners March' -- in Paden City

Library of Congress creates

new subject heading for W.Va.

Thompson Yee of the Library of Congress created a new subject heading — “West Virginia Mine Wars 1897-1921” on June 1, 2005. The first two new items cataloged using the new subject heading were William C. Blizzard’s landmark book, “When Miners March,” and Bill Richardson’s hit 2004 DVD, “Mine Wars.” Mr. Yee has also submitted info to create a second subject heading - the Battle of Blair Mountain (Blair Mountain, Battle of, W. Va., 1921.) which should be approved by Aug. 1. Hopefully he will also add two other needed subject headings – “culture wars” and “plutocracy.” Amazingly, neither is used by LC at this time.

Blizzard and Richardson donated copies of their works to LC. Blizzard is looking for someone to make a film of his book — maybe Richardson could after he completes his current project on Flash Gordon. Paden City plans on showing “Mine Wars” over Labor Day as part of their Labor Day Film Festival. Carolyn Le Masters, who did a fine job re-creating the world premiere of “Stage Struck” in June for its 80th anniversary, lives in Paden City. Paden City was the site of one of W.Va.’s first major labor history events – in 1877 the first state district assembly of Knights of Labor took place. Also, NPR did a fine story on the battle to save Blair Mountain from development on July 6th. Frank Langfitt, the NPR reporter on labor/workplace came to W.Va. to interview author Blizzard and others about the story. He has done earlier stories on new generations of coal miners in W. Va. Listen to the Blair Mountain story at — [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4729118](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4729118). At the bottom of the page are links to his other coalmine stories.



## Don Knotts Festival

Morgantown will honor its native son Don Knotts in August with his own film festival August 12-14th as part of the Arts on the River in Morgantown Aug. 12-21. Last year the city re-named a city street in his honor. Knotts published his autobiography several years ago, “Barney Fife and Other Characters I Have Known,”(1999). Knotts is still active, doing live shows and films. He is presently working on two films - “Chicken Little” and “Heart of Love.” He began his career on the Bob Cummings Show in

1958, graduating from WVU in education. He won several medals in WWII, and became a chicken plucker after he was told he wouldn't make it as an actor. The DVD of "The Andy Griffith Show" third season was released last month. The first two are already available. "The Captives" by Jude Miller along with other W.Va. films will be shown during the regular festival. For more information, go to [www.artsontheriver.org](http://www.artsontheriver.org).

#### More W.Va. filmmaker awards

"The Captives" received an Award of Excellence in the 2005 Accolade Competition and also in the DV Awards for digital video production. "Love is Not an Angry Thing", an original play by Dan Kehde and adapted for television by producer-director Greg Harpold has won a Telly and Communicator award. The video production was shot in and around Charleston and South Charleston and will be distributed through Jaguar Educational. Several months ago, the film premiered at the South Charleston Museum's Labelle Theater. Destiny Images and West Virginia Medical Institute (WVMI) received a national "Frankie" award during the national Diabetes Translation Conference held in May in Miami, Florida, for their production of an animated television announcement (a.k.a. "PSA") focusing on diabetes prevention and education. Some of this info comes from the West Virginia Film Office's monthly Email Blast."

#### W.Va. writers in film night

The South Charleston Museum will be showing three award-winning films about W. Va. authors Breece Pancake, Denise Giardina, and Pinckney Benedict plus an experimental short with Benedict. Giardina wrote the screenplay for "The Gift Horse," a humorous tale about a homeless man who wins the lottery. Pinckney Benedict wrote the story and his wife wrote the screenplay adaptation for "Getting Over Arnette." Both were made into films through a collaboration of WVPBS in Morgantown and WVU Theater Dept., winning national awards. "Elegy: The Life and Work of Breece D'J Pancake" is a 10 minute film by Jason Freeman who studied with Benedict at Hollins University in Virginia. Finally, 'Trout Dinner' will be shown. It's a short-musical film by Kyle Van Buskirk, featuring

W.Va. filmmaker Jason Brown, as Trout, and Pinckney Benedict as well as Charleston writer Alysha Wood as a dancer. The 20-minute experimental film is the tale of one man's dream of a woman, a mouse and a musical. The film has been shown at the Blue Ridge Vision Film Festival in Roanoke and Hollins University, where Benedict teaches and both Buskirk and Brown received masters degrees. Van Buskirk is a San Diego native currently attending law school. Brown is a teacher, most recently of W. Va. State University, and currently is shooting a documentary about the affects of the film 'Matewan.' The event will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 13. Admission is \$2. Ms. Giardina will introduce the films and answer questions.

#### The meaning of Matewan

WVIFF board member and filmmaker Jason Brown is starting a project he has been thinking about for a long time — just how it was that John Sayles came to our state to film "Matewan" and what influence it has had. While Brown will be moving to a new position at the University of North

Carolina at Greensboro this month, he and co-producer Chris Oxley, with W.Va. Public Broadcasting in Beckley, will start interviewing people about the film right

away.

Brown told Sayles and his partner Maggie Renzie about his project last fall when they were guests of the 20th edition of WVIFF. He wrote me, "...this won't start coming together until some time next year." Sayles first came to W.Va. in 1983 on a scouting trip, facing a lot of resistance from State House officials. Republican Gov. Arch Moore and his staff were in office between 1985 to the films completion in 1987. Gov. Underwood's press director, Dan Page, did two stories on the "bad influence" of the film while he was editor of the State Journal – which he presently is. WVFFF screened the restored IFC print of "Matewan" in 2004. You can contact Brown vial e-mail at [info@pewterproductions.com](mailto:info@pewterproductions.com).

### The Abby Chronicles

Abby Wathen, the subject of Ray and Judy Schmitt's great biographical film, "The Abby Spirit," will appear in the new Hugh Grant film, "American Dreamz," also starring William DeFoe, Mandy Moore, and Dennis Quaid. I got to watch a preview of her first starring role in an indie feature film, "Flying Tiger." She did a fine job as the Lana Lang character playing opposite Bryan Schany as the boy wonder. The film received good reviews including a new one from Film Threat. As a regular watcher of "Smallville," I understand the problem of showing someone flying – which was only done a few times on the WB series. However, even fine acting, cinematography, and music can't make up for the plot problems. Lately I have seen several indie films with too many plots not woven together well. I recommend one or two plots at the most – like the North Carolina indie I also watched recently, "Lullaby," which is the best domestic violence indie feature I have seen. Dorne Pentes who made his film for \$40,000 wrote and directed an intriguing film without superheroes. For more information on "Flying Tiger" go to [www.flyingtigerthemovie.com](http://www.flyingtigerthemovie.com). For more information on "Lullaby" visit [www.wildwildsouth.com/lullaby](http://www.wildwildsouth.com/lullaby).

### Rogers as movie fanatic

Well-known political writer H. John Rogers, and a long-time columnist for Graffiti, is a movie fanatic of the highest order. He once wrote reviews for the Wobblies magazine. The IWW is celebrating its 100th anniversary and is still very much alive — [www.iww.org](http://www.iww.org). Rogers was good friends with Larry Kasdan, famous for directing "Body Heat," and writing one of the best "Star Wars" episodes, and his brother Mark. He lived at their family home in Wheeling and in Florida with Mark.

He avidly watches films at theaters, at home, and even wrote the best review of Mike Lilly's film, "Correct Change" after seeing it at the Moundsville Public Library.

He has told me that I should tell people about his local art house — the Towngate Cinema. Recently he enjoyed Woody Allen's new film, "Melinda and Melinda." The theater also was the only one other than the Elk River in Sutton for the WVFFF that screened the restored "The Night of the Hunter."

Hopefully you will get to see him at Paden City's Labor History Film Festival - he is an expert on local labor history. His grandfather was an extra in WV's first Hollywood film, "Stage Struck," made in Moundsville in 1925.



**Graffiti**

519 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, W.Va. 26101  
1.304.485.1891  
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