

# Group to create films within 48 hours

By Lauren Ingenu  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Ready, set, action — there is no time to waste.

In a process that can take filmmakers years to achieve, Penn State students will attempt to write, shoot, edit and produce their own films in just two short days.

Penn State's Student Film Organization (SFO) will be discussing and assigning film prompts for its annual 48-hour film festival during the club's second

meeting — at 6:30 p.m. tonight in 113 Carnegie.

The meeting is open to all students and will serve as a briefing on the rules of the contest. Groups of three to six students will be formed at this time, SFO President Sam Broscoe said.

"You don't have to come with a group," Broscoe (senior-film and video) said. "Last year, some people came with friends, but for the most part people just joined up with whoever they were next to."

The students then have the freedom to create a film of any

length about whatever they want — with a twist. Using an online random generator, SFO officers will give each group a log line that they must incorporate into their film.

Six zoogeographers resolving their differences is an example of one randomly generated premise.

SFO Vice President Manami York who will take part in judging the contest, said she always enjoys the crazy 48-hour film festival.

"I've been able to watch some of them throughout the years and

some of them are pretty fantastic," York (senior-medieval studies and art history) said.

Eric Hamilton (senior-film and video) knows all about the challenges of the 48-hour film festival. His group's film — a complex film noir about prohibition and assassins — won the festival last year.

Though last year the event was actually four days long, Hamilton said he and his three group members took just two days to complete what he called an "exhilarating" project. "I think the hardest part was just getting to know

## If you go

**What:** Student Film Organizations's film festival  
**Where:** 113 Carnegie  
**When:** Begins 6:30 tonight and ends 6:30 p.m. Saturday

where the others were coming from and then to piece together our own ideas," Hamilton said.

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## Author reads poetry aloud

By Lauren Ingenu  
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Poet Catie Rosemurgy proved to audience members that her narrative poetry, influenced by the 2003 movie, "Monster," can be understood more visually when read aloud.

Rosemurgy read from her latest book of poetry, "The Stranger Manual" which was released in 2009 and assigned to the MFA poetry students to read over the summer, said Evan McGarvey (graduate-poetry). McGarvey was one of about 40 students and faculty members who listened to Rosemurgy read in the Foster Auditorium on Wednesday night.

"Her poetry is really fresh; it isn't tethered to something old and archaic," McGarvey said. "The cinematic influences just make it more visual and appealing."

The Rona Jaffe award-winning poet was cheerful and funny, similar to her contemporary poems, which center around a quirky character named Miss Peach.

Miss Peach speaks with the voice of a sullen teenager, and



Tyler Sizemore/Collegian

Philadelphia poet Catie Rosemurgy reads her work Wednesday evening in the Foster Auditorium.

deals with some questions of female identity. Her stories are funny, but they have somber undertones. When asked by a student where the name "Miss Peach" derived from, Rosemurgy bashfully explained that it was a nickname her ex-boyfriend called her. She used the name in her first poem as a form of revenge.

"I couldn't think of a good thing to tell you so I'm telling you the truth," the poet said after the confession. "I hate the truth."

Rosemurgy also said she didn't intentionally create the narrative of Miss Peach and she didn't originally mean for the poems to be a lament.

"In the beginning the poems were fun but there was a lot of darkness underneath them," Rosemurgy said. "In the end, I knew the book was about vio-

lence. But I didn't want to directly address the issue."

Although Rosemurgy said giving poetry readings makes her nervous, some students agreed with McGarvey that her poetry came alive after listened to out loud.

"It was an entirely new experience to hear it and watch her expressions," Rachel Mennies (graduate-poetry) said. "When she was reading it was like watching a movie."

After the reading and a question and answer session, Rosemurgy signed her book for the students who stayed after to speak with her.

"This is such a remarkable community. I love meeting these young writers," Rosemurgy said.

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## Students offer input on touch-screen devices

By Will Schultz  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the release of the original iPhone in 2007, touch-screen technology has transformed from a kiosk gimmick into an everyday convenience.

By the end of 2009, the iPhone was available in 79 different countries and every major cell phone manufacturer had produced its own competing touch-screen smartphone. Touch screens then migrated to Apple's iPad and Microsoft's table-sized Surface. They remain the most prevalent, however, among cell phones.

Avid touch-screen supporter Matt Weckesser doesn't think he will ever use any device but his iPhone. "I am all about touch screens," Weckesser (sophomore-finance) said.

Job Hunter said he believes touch screens have their place within the technological world. While Hunter (junior-anthropology) still prefers to use the slide-out keyboard on his cell phone for typing, he said the touch screen is ideal for "scrolling, browsing, things like that."

But like any technology, touch screens have their issues. The high cost of producing high-quality touch screens has led some companies to rely on less accurate versions of the technology.

This discrepancy leads to the performance and price differences between devices such as the Blackberry Storm and the iPhone.

Without a physical button to press, some people, like Sylvester Dukes and Nicholas Pinn said they sometimes accidentally end their own calls.

Noting this issue, Grant Rowlands (sophomore-biological engineering) said he likes to have the option of using physical interfaces, adding that he likes to use touch screens for browsing the Internet, but also uses "joysticks and touch-pads" for more delicate work.

Besides cheek-induced issues, there are also more practical ones. Restricted by the device's screen size, virtual keyboards are considered by some to be difficult to use. Those reasons aside, many people are comfortable using a physical keyboard and say the virtual one does not come naturally to them. Others have found themselves adapting to the new technology seamlessly. Pinn (junior-mechanical engineering) said his fingers "glide" over the keyboard.

Dukes said he would enjoy having the feature on more devices because of their relative ease, but would like to retain other interfaces such as the mouse and keyboard.

And Pinn said he looks forward to a day when the devices become even more natural.

"The more upgraded something can be, the more convenient and beneficial [it is] to the world," Pinn said.

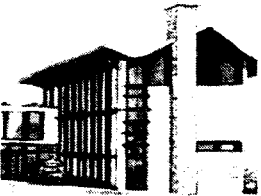
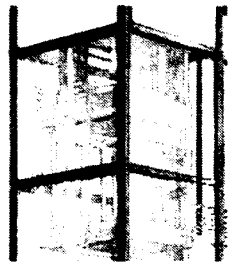
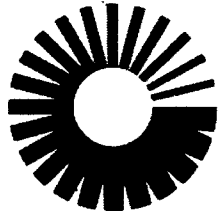
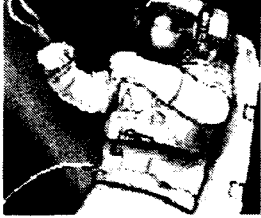
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