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SAM HOUSTON STATE REACHES 125-YEAR MILESTONE

Sam Houston State University celebrated 125 years of scholastic achievement in October—with the help of Texas Foundation for the Arts.

TFA created a special, 30-minute documentary film about the university in celebration of its rich history. The film, *125 Years of Sam Houston State University*, will be submitted to HoustonPBS in early 2005.

Sam Houston State was founded on Oct. 10, 1879, and named after the legendary General Sam Houston. The film showcases Sam Houston State's impressive history and its many accomplishments over the past 125 years through compelling interviews with past and present university alumni, professors, administration and longtime Huntsville residents.



Sam Houston State alumnus Dan Rather sits for an interview with TFA's Kim Lykins

www.texarts.org

COURTHOUSE FILM IS REEL HIT, PART 2 IS ON THE WAY



Texans love their historic courthouses. Thousands of television viewers all over the Lone Star state tuned in to watch Vol. 1 of Texas Foundation for the Arts' documentary film *The Golden Age of Texas Courthouses* and are eagerly awaiting Vol. 2. They won't have long to wait.

“The second episode will premiere on HoustonPBS on Wednesday, December 1 at 7 p.m.,” said Kim Lykins, founding director of Texas Foundation for the Arts. “It will then air on PBS stations across Texas in December.”

A Near-Century of Texas History

Vol. 2 will tour historic courthouses built in between the 1850s and 1910s in Hill, Tarrant, Harris, Hopkins, DeWitt, Victoria, Colorado, Newton, Navarro, Caldwell, Somervell and Lee counties.

The stories behind them range from the tragic – more than one was ravaged by fire – to the humorous – one has a statue of Popeye while another features a monument to the peanut.

Filmmaker Jim Bailey points to the innovation of early courthouse architects. “For example, in Fort Worth, Tarrant County Courthouse architects took advantage of fresh water springs under the courthouse and created cooling towers that provided natural air conditioning to the structure,” he said.

The film features interviews with local preservationists and courthouse experts, including Dr. Donald Dyal, director of Libraries at Texas Tech, and co-author of *The Courthouses of Texas*.

Underwritten by Fulbright & Jaworski LLP and George P. Mitchell, Vol. 2 is one hour in length.

How to Order Tapes and DVDs

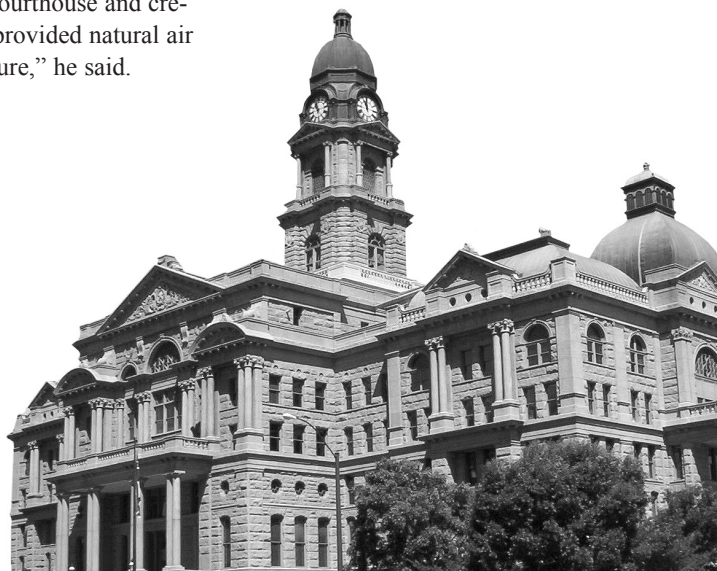
Both episodes are available on DVD or VHS through HoustonPBS, which has supported the series from its inception.

“HoustonPBS has broadcast Vol. 1 three times,” said Ken Lawrence, Director of Programming for HoustonPBS. “The most recent broadcast on November 1 almost doubled the audience we had the first time. It averaged a 3.8 rating with 70,262 television households tuning in.”

To order, call HoustonPBS at: 713-748-8888 or visit HoustonPBS.org.

Excerpts from Vol. 1 of *The Golden Age of Texas Courthouses* were shown during the National Trust's annual convention as Texas Historical Commission received an award for its courthouse restoration program.

Photo:
Tarrant County courthouse



Murals of Daniel Lechón Capture Texas History

Last summer, when internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Daniel Lechón officially unveiled his one-of-a-kind murals commissioned by the new Kenedy Ranch Museum in Sarita, Texas, a Texas Foundation for the Arts film crew was there to record the historic moment for its next documentary, *El Muralista: The Murals of Daniel Lechón*.

Lechón, who now works and resides in Houston, was born in Mexico and worked with some of the great Mexican muralists. The documentary follows his work on three amazing 9-foot-by-30-foot murals that portray the history of South Texas while emphasizing the close connection between Texas and Mexico.

TFA's documentary film offers a behind-the-scene look at Lechón in his Houston studio as he paints this magnificent tribute to Texas.

El Muralista: The Murals of Daniel Lechón will be submitted to HoustonPBS in early 2005.



TFA's film crew captures Daniel Lechón and Cesar Rivas installing a panel at the Kenedy Ranch Museum

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS

Texas Foundation for the Arts is the fiscal sponsor for two documentary films, one that delves into how college athletes balance studies and sports and the other a retrospective about a legendary Texas blues musician:

Student Athletes, filmed by Sunset Productions, debuted on HoustonPBS on Oct. 18, 2004. It follows four Rice University athletes as they strive to balance the demands of their sports with their academic responsibilities.

Where Lightnin' Strikes, a biopic about influential bluesman Lightnin' Hopkins, includes interviews with B.B. King, Jimmie Vaughn and Rocky Hill. The documentary, produced by Mark Susman and Mike Snow, will be submitted to PBS and other appropriate outlets upon completion.

Texas Foundation for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to furthering the arts in Texas. All contributions are tax-deductible.



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Wishing you an arts-filled holiday season!