

THE BEACON-TALON

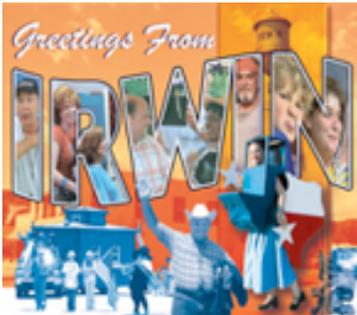
serving Irwin with Skyhawk PRIDE since 1986

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What's News?

E-O-I...O'-so-close!

A hearty round of holas and howdies from our realm to yours!



When Samuel Dale Irwin's fateful 1846 ride came to an unexpected end 'neath the current site of our fair water tower, little would he have known that 150+ years later an even more unexpected saga would play out on

this same soil.

Years in the making, *The Essence of Irwin* is only bells, whistles, and a couple of months away from wriggling free of post-production and trumpeting Irwin's tale to the world at large.

Editing is well underway. We're whittling away at the rough cut, and, if it wasn't for the certain insta-jinx it would create, I'd be so bold as to share a specific target date. Heck, I guess I can safely get away with a mention of- no, nada, not gonna do it. Soon. *Soon*, I tell y'!

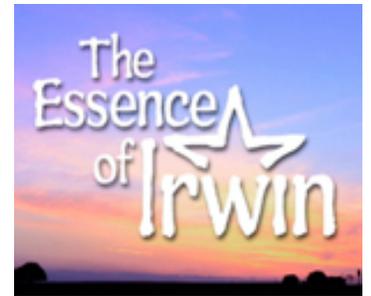
While the main course simmers, here's a hearty helping of hors d'oeuvres to tide y'. I'll be right back with your waters—extra ICE, naturally.

-Darren

Preserving moving images is only a small part of the independent filmmaking endeavor, and that's especially true in Irwin. Here's a rundown of ongoing adventures and budding ventures.

Fe-Fi(nancial)-Fo-Fum II

After a very successful February and a touch of May fortune, it's a great pleasure to report that we have surpassed 90% of the funds needed to fulfill our budget! There are a couple of slots left, so if any of you have any suggestions for potential investors and/or funding sources, please let Darren know.



As the Skyhawk Squawks

March marked the debut of "*SkyHawk Squawks it All!: The Story of Irwin Activity Book.*" Downloadable as a PDF file through www.irwintexas.com/irwinkids (thanks Karin Kreutzer!), the mini activity book was helmed by Dan Jankowski (insert standing ovation for Dan's layout and illustrations here) and DMcD and features contributions from Irwinians Jackie Jordan, Greg Hull, Victor Davila, and Katharine Leis as well as



assembly assistance from Fran Webster and Bruce Grooms.

In addition to the brief tale of Irwin's history, the activity book engages the mind through a battery of coloring challenges, pencil feats, and word puzzles. Indeed, there's much to be dug.

Move over, Grover's Corners...

Make way, Mayberry. A little faster, Sicily, Alaska... It's 2004, and a lot has changed in Irwin since the great debacle in the Irwin-Lauder High School gym. The biggest change of all is the one on the horizon: Irwin's own TV show.



That's right—the big news in town is that Downright Swell Productions is looking

to produce a TV series based in Irwin as its next big venture. Look to the next issue of the Beacon-Talon for specifics.

For...umm?

The Irwin Community Forum has been in quiet operation for several months now, and we're getting ready to kick it into a higher gear. Please help getting the conversation rolling again by visiting the forum, which is accessed through the ever-evolving <http://irwintexas.com>. Join the discussions, stir up the mischief, and keep site visitors guessing, "Is this town real?" Finally, if you have ideas for additions to the site or would like to contribute strategies, know-how, and/or content, please let Darren know.

The Sundance Kidz

Park City was teeming with Irwinians, as Cynthia Ganote and Jim McSilver joined Darren for a "Sundance scout." (Scouts pictured here along with Bronzai, the ICE Bear.)



Also attending Sundance were art department ambassadors: Neil Norman, Chelsey Emanuel, and Charlie Eubanks—all of whom participated in the festival as volunteers.

Darren's viewing highlights included the Canadian documentary, *The Corporation*, and "the funniest movie I've seen in a decade," *The Yes Men*, which is a documentary centered on some elaborate and highly effective practical jokes.

Four Score

In April, Warren "B. Diggs" Black joined forces with producer, Tony Copley, studio engineer, Brian

Myers, and gadabout, DMcD, to record and master the core elements of the *Eol* score.

Despite the cruel intentions

of software incompatibilities, progress happened.



Is there a docu in the house?

Irwin: A Community Enterprise, our "making of" documentary, is still in the "making of" stages. There's still footage to sort through, and there are still more interviews to conduct. If you haven't been involved and you would like to be, please let us know. Bruce Grooms has taken the reins as producer, forging ahead along with co-producer,

Matt Juvinal. We also welcome Marty Cronk and Michael Maguire as our new editing team.

Monster Mash

Hearty congratulations to the crew and cast of *Monster* for their artistic, financial, and critical success! Steve Campbell, Shawn McFall, Christian Stokes, Orvis Rigsby, Grayson Austin, Josh Harrison, Ben Lowell, Chip Monk, Ace Stoll, Louis Normandin, and anyone else the IMDB credit list failed to include: we salute your significant contributions to a film for which the Florida film community can be proud. A second round of congratulations go out to another legion of *Irwin's* finest—including Joanne Hinson, Tommy Hinson, Steve Campbell, and Keith Jackson—for bringing benevolence to *The Punisher*.

Don't Cook Now...

...when you can wait a few months and get the official Irwin Community Cookbook. We're currently on the prowl for recipes. If you'd like to help with the creation of the cookbook, contact Bruce and Fran at OakHammockEnt@aol.com.

Irwin in the News

Though we've maintained a fairly low profile while in post production, we have not stayed completely out of the public eye. Here's proof:

On March 22nd (technically 23rd), Darren and the film were featured on "Overtime TV," a new local talk show hosted by Art Miles. Though the show is in a brief hiatus, it has a very promising future. Behold it on the web: www.overtimetv.com.

Darren has also participated in several speaking engagements, including guest speaker appearances at Florida Metropolitan University and the University of Central Florida and a panel on film festivals for the FMPTA (Florida Motion Picture and Television Association).

Of our print articles, we're still especially proud of Katharine Leis' feature in Orlando's *Axis Magazine*: <http://www.axismag.com/films/2003-11/>

If you haven't seen it, we shonuff hope you'll take a gander. Katharine did an exceptional job with this interview, and it'll give you more insight than you might want into Darren's perceptions, perspectives, quirks, etc. Plus, there are pictures—and some may include *you!*

View from the Water Tower

The horizon holds for us months of post-production fun, soundtrack producing, and, naturally, empire building. We're aiming to submit the film to the Toronto International Film Festival and perhaps the IFP Market.

Many of you have asked about post-production progress, premieres, screenings, and such. We will give you ample notice in advance of completion, so sit tight and rest easy.

Don't forget to keep us up to date on your own journeys and victories, and please do send us any changes in your contact information. In the meantime, we haven't stopped needing and/or looking for help. If you'd like to contribute time, ideas, resources, networking assistance, and such to the cause, please do let us know through mail@downrightswell.com.

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