



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 5, 2016

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WEDU ARTS PLUS Goes Behind-the-Scenes this Thursday with Dylan McDermott at Ringling College of Art and Design



*WEDU's production team documents the making of a web series being directed by **Dylan McDermott** and filmed by Ringling College students. The segment will air on August 11th on WEDU ARTS PLUS.*

Sarasota, FL (Aug. 5, 2016) — Dylan McDermott took a moment to give direction to an actor sitting in the driver's seat of an old pickup truck strategically surrounded by production lights, cameras, cables and more. The Golden Globe winning actor and director is working with Ringling College Film students to shoot and film a web series in Sarasota.

For the moment, the cameras capturing the scenes of the

web series have stopped, however the cameras for **WEDU ARTS PLUS** have continued filming. WEDU's award-winning, weekly arts and culture program will profile the development of the web series during this **Thursday (8/11/16)** night's episode beginning at **8 p.m.** The segment goes behind-the-scenes at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota as McDermott writes and directs the pilot of a web series with students as part of a collaboration that aims to bring the professional film industry to Sarasota with famous talent and a brand new soundstage and post-production facility.

WEDU PBS, Semkhor Networks and Ringling College of Art and Design announced in June that they had signed a letter of intent to develop a wide ranging collaboration centered on a new sound stage and post production facility. While the first large stage will open later this year, the collaboration is already creating new opportunities. The **WEDU ARTS PLUS** behind-the-scenes segment is the first project for the partners.

Future projects being discussed range from ongoing web series to traditional television. The approximately 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art professional soundstage and film and television post-production complex is tied to Ringling College of Art and Design's academic needs and is expected to attract a broad range of commercial production, as well as WEDU productions.

When complete, the college will conduct filmmaking classes and students will work on any commercial productions that use the complex. The new facility will be designed to take full advantage of the rapid advancements in digital production and distribution with the flexibility to support a wide range of content production. The facility is slated to be fully operational in 2017 and the web series directed by McDermott will premiere in early 2017.

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WEDU PressRoom: www.wedu.org/press

WEDU Video Portal: <http://video.wedu.org>

WEDU on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WEDUPublicMedia

WEDU on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/wedupbs>



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WEDU ARTS PLUS airs on **Thursday nights at 8 p.m.** and repeats several times during the week on WEDU's multiple channels. Programs are also available for viewing on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets. To learn more about **WEDU ARTS PLUS** or to view past episodes, visit the website at www.wedu.org/artsplus.

ABOUT WEDU PBS ARTS PLUS

WEDU ARTS PLUS is a weekly arts and culture program produced by WEDU PBS. It is devoted to telling stories of the individuals and cultural organizations that make West Central Florida – Florida's Cultural Coast – such a vibrant region. These stories are combined with others from around the country to form an entertaining weekly series. WEDU ARTS PLUS is more than a television program. It is a celebration of the cultural assets of the WEDU PBS 16-county area, a way to bring communities together through the arts, and an opportunity to educate about and through the arts. WEDU Arts Plus debuted on February 28, 2013. The program features both local stories and segments from other PBS stations around the country. WEDU ARTS PLUS is broadcast to more than 5,000,000 people throughout WEDU's 16 county viewing area and is available to anyone, anywhere online. The program airs on Thursday nights at 8 PM and repeats several times during the week on WEDU's multiple channels. Programs are also available for viewing on mobile devices such as smart phones and tablets.

ABOUT WEDU PBS

WEDU is West Central Florida's leading PBS station reaching 16 counties through media platforms including on-air programming and online experiences that broaden horizons, transport and transform and open gateways to new ideas and new worlds. Financially supported by the community, the organization offers a wealth of award-winning inspirational, educational and enlightening content over a variety of multi-media platforms including: television programming, station website, www.wedu.org and various social media platforms, monthly member magazine *Premiere*, educational outreach activities and a myriad of special events. WEDU's focus on the local community has resulted in the station being regarded as a beacon of trust for men, women and children of every walk of life no matter their age, ethnicity or socio-economic status. WEDU is a treasured community resource; a window to the world for the homebound and a vital educational source for the youngest members of society. WEDU prides itself on its position in the Tampa Bay community as a leader, partner, informed citizen and a member of PBS, the most trusted institution in America (Source: Survey Sampling International (SSI), January 2016). For more information, program schedules or to support WEDU visit www.wedu.org; WEDU Public Media on Facebook and Twitter (@wedupbs) or call (813) 254-9338.

ABOUT SEMKHOR NETWORKS

SEMKHOR is a media and technology company focused on digital content production and distribution. It provides consulting services centered on integrating the entertainment industry into a wide range of projects. It also is co-investing, with Ringling College, in the new 40,000 square foot sound stage and post production facility as well as executive producing a slate of original, celebrity based web series.

ABOUT RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN

For nearly 85 years, Ringling College of Art and Design has cultivated the creative spirit in students from around the globe. The private, not-for-profit fully accredited college offers the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in eleven disciplines and the Bachelor of Arts in two. The College's rigorous curriculum employs the studio model of teaching and immediately engages students through a comprehensive, first-year program that is both specific to the major of study and focused on the liberal arts. The Ringling College teaching model ultimately shapes students into highly employable and globally aware artists and designers. For more information please visit the Ringling College website at www.ringling.edu, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) or call 941.351.5100.

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