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Triton College Professor Seth McClellan Screens Film, *Others Before Self*, at Oak Park's Lake Theater

Question-and-Answer Portion with McClellan will Follow

RIVER GROVE, Ill. – Triton College's Mass Communications instructor Seth McClellan will bring his new documentary, *Others Before Self*, to the Lake Theater in Oak Park for a noon screening on Sunday, June 19. Immediately following the screening, McClellan will be joined by members of the Tibetan Alliance of Chicago to host a question-and-answer session with members of the audience.

"I've lived in Oak Park with my family for many years and I love the Lake Theater," said McClellan. "It is a great location and the film will be phenomenal on the big screen."

Those interested in attending can register on the documentary's Facebook page (search *Others Before Self* documentary on Facebook) or attend the screening on the day of the event. The event is free with access on a first-come basis.

"Although the event is free, we request donations to the Tibetan Children's Village," he said. "We hope people take from this a basic understanding of the power of the school's teachings and how these children have been impacted by the larger history of Tibet."

McClellan won best documentary at the Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City on Sunday, March 20 for *Others Before Self*, which is a profile on the Himalayan school Tibetan Children Village that was founded by the Dalai Lama.

The hour-long documentary is a portrait highlighting the many different voices of children who attend the school.

“The children live in group homes and they have a lot of responsibilities,” McClellan explained. “They cook, clean and study together. They put others before themselves.”

McClellan explained that Tibet was invaded by China in 1949 and in 1959 China took over Tibet. Those living in Tibet became refugees and left for the Himalayas. The Dalai Lama started the school for Tibetan children to help them learn and grow.

“The documentary goes through the history of the school and the lessons that the school teaches,” McClellan said. “These children are telling us their hopes and dreams.”

The film was shot in Dharamsala in northern India in the summer of 2019. Luckily for McClellan, his filming schedule was not interrupted by the pandemic.

McClellan’s last film, *Little Wound’s Warriors*, is about young people on a Native reservation in South Dakota. He said *Others Before Self* is something of a follow-up since it also profiles young people.

He explained that he will eventually take the film to India to show the injustices to the Tibetan people, but also showcase the beautiful and positive side of their lives.

For more information, please contact sethmclellan@triton.edu or (708) 456-0300, Ext. 3482.

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Media Contact

Maryann Pisano

Staff Writer

maryannpisano@triton.edu

(708) 456-0300, Ext. 3062

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Triton College is a two-year college dedicated to helping members of the 25 Western Cook County communities in our district and beyond to achieve educational, professional and personal success. Located in River Grove, IL, Triton offers more than 110 degree and certificate programs on its 110-acre campus, featuring a comfortable, friendly and diverse atmosphere. Triton holds classes at several satellite locations as well and offers online learning opportunities. Triton's dedicated faculty and staff work to provide high quality, convenient and affordable educational opportunities to more than 12,000 students each year. Triton College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Learn more at <https://www.triton.edu/>.