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Submitted photo

DOCUWEEK: Homer Avila and Andrea Flores rehearse their dance "Pas de Deux" in the short documentary film "Phoenix Dance" from director Karina Epperlein on Avila's dancing comeback after a leg amputation. It is one of six films included in the 10th annual IDA DocuWeek Theatrical Documentary Showcase.

On the big screen

IDA's DocuWeek set for weekend showcase

BY JOHN LOVETT
The Sentinel-Record

The Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute was chosen by the International Documentary Association for the fourth year in a row to host the DocuWeek Theatrical Documentary Showcase.

The showcase, which gives independent films a chance at the running for an Academy Award, will be held Saturday and Sunday at Behind the Mall Cinema.

Hot Springs is the only city east of the Rocky Mountains included in the tour.

To be qualified by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for consideration in the best documentary category, a film must be shown in a commercial theater outside of Los Angeles or New York.

Since its inception 10 years ago, at least 15 films featured in the showcase have gone on to be nominated for an Academy Award, with four films winning Oscars. Last year's tour included "Darwin's Nightmare," which was nominated for Best Documentary. The winner was "March of the Penguins."

There are 16 films in the tour, but only six will be shown in Hot Springs. Twelve were shown in last year's Hot Springs

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DocuWeek stop.

"This is an important venue for short documentaries, 40 minutes and under, because they don't have the opportunity to screen in a theatrical venue," said Darla Dixon, Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival coordinator.

The three other cities hosting DocuWeek include Boulder, Colo., Ketchum, Idaho, and Jackson Hole, Wyo. These cities were also chosen last year to host the event.

DocuWeek films to be shown Saturday and Sunday include "An Unreasonable Man," which is described on Page 10A today by Susan Martin, HSDFI film coordinator. The two-hour film begins at 4 p.m. in Theater 4 and shows again at 6 p.m. Sunday in the same theater.

Second on the schedule Saturday is "The Trials of Darryl Hunt," at 6:20 p.m. in Theater 4. It tells the racially charged story of a black man falsely accused of murder, who was held in prison for 10 years

after being deemed innocent by DNA testing. It's just under two hours long.

"So Much So Fast," the story of two brothers fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease with their own "guerilla science," will be shown in Theater 5 at 4 p.m. Saturday. The film runs one and a half hours.

"Phoenix Dance" will be shown at 6 p.m. in Theater 5. This is an inspirational 16-minute film about an accomplished dancer, Homer Avila, who loses a leg to cancer and returns to the stage for a duet with Andrea Flores.

Following "Phoenix Dance" will be "My Favorite Hitler Youth: Just Like You and Me." After four years of beatings and humiliation by his classmates and elders in the 1930s German military school for Hitler Youth, Friedrich Karl Nischwitz escaped to America and became Fred Curtis. He then went on to fight against the Nazis in World War II and came home to be one of the founding fathers of the mod-

ern computer hard drive.

At 7:20 p.m. in Theater 5 will be "Purvis of Overtown." After a stint in state prison, Purvis Young taught himself to paint and is now recognized nationally as important American painter. The film is one hour and 7 minutes in length.

On Sunday, the films will be shown again beginning at 4 p.m. with "The Trials of Darryl Hunt" and "An Unreasonable Man" at 6 p.m. in Theater 4.

In Theater 5 beginning at 4 p.m. will be "My Favorite Hitler Youth" and "Phoenix Dance," followed by "Purvis of Overtown" at 5:15 p.m. and "So Much So Fast" at 6:45 p.m.

All tickets are \$5. Three of the films in DocuWeek will be shown in this year's Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, Oct. 20-29, at the Malco Theater downtown. Those films include "Phoenix Dance," "Trials of Darryl Hunt," and "Purvis of Overtown."