

Community rolls out the red carpet for Heights film premiere

by Marti Franks

Twinsburg native and filmmaker Carla LynDale Carter hosted a red-carpet event at the Hilton Garden Inn to roll out her new film about the history of Twinsburg Heights. Almost 300 people were on hand to be the first to view “Voices of the Hill: A Twinsburg Heights Community Documentary.”

Guests walked the red carpet flanked by stills from the film.

Carter, who grew up in the Heights and wanted to give a clearer picture of life in the neighborhood between Hadden and Chamberlin roads, started work on the film last summer. One of her goals was to finish the project before Twinsburg’s bicentennial in 2017.

And she had a lot of help. Thirteen Twinsburg high school students and four college students were involved. In addition, “the Twinsburg Historical Society, Twinsburg city and the township and Jerney Studios were all instrumental in getting this movie made,” Carter said after the event, speaking from her Texas home where she is a professor of media arts at the University of North Texas.

“It felt great to sit in the audience and witness their reaction,” she recalled. “That made it all worthwhile. It reinforced the importance of the project.”

Avaughn Lardell, a sophomore at THS, handled the audio and the boom microphone for the interviews. “It started as a community service project, but that changed when I realized that there was so much history to learn,” he said. “It was a lot of fun. Carla taught me what I needed to know, and now this may be something I want to do when I grow up. I feel that the film was a good thing. There was a community center that was torn down, and now I think we need to get it rebuilt.”

David Georges, also a THS student, wrote some of the music, and Orlando-based record producer Carl Borden, a Twinsburg grad, helped with instrumentation.

The film uses old footage and photos shared by the residents juxtaposed with interviews from homeowners past and present. Around 30 people were featured. Madelon Curtis, who has lived in the community on and off all of her life said, “I don’t think this story would have been told if Carla hadn’t done it. It is an impor-



Above: Filmmaker Carla LynDale Carter (center, floral dress), a Twinsburg native, is flanked by many of the people, including past and present Twinsburg students who helped her create “Voices of the Hill: A Twinsburg Heights Community Documentary.” Left: Carla LynDale Carter (l) and daughter Aaryn Bishop pose with Twinsburg Mayor Ted Yates at the June premiere.



tant story and it needed to be told.” Curtis graduated from the Old School in 1939.

Randy Addison, who grew up in the Heights and was in the film, was impressed with the students: “I have to admit I was frankly surprised at how well it came out. The children did a wonderful job. Very beautifully done.”

“I thought it was fantastic. A lot of residents, including me, are unaware of the rich culture and history of that neighborhood,” Twinsburg Mayor Ted Yates said. “Using the students was a bonus for them and the residents. They all did a great job.”

The owners of Jerney Studios in Reminderville donated their time and talent as well. Vicki Jeromas Blarney took the still shots and her husband, Jim Blarney, did the graphic design. The photographs lined the red carpet, and the audience lined up for pictures in front of the backdrop.

Lifelong resident Lea Bissell called the film “an enlightening experience.” Bissell graduated from Twinsburg in 1950, and her grandfather, Charles Richner, owned the land that is now the Heights.

Carter has high hopes for “Voices.” She has already applied to several film festivals for consideration and hopes to have more showings at other venues. ∞

NOW ENROLLING



Fall Enrollment Special!
\$200 OFF
 one month's tuition
 – or –
\$70 per week
After School Care
 For The 2016-2017 Year

New enrollments only. Some restrictions apply.
 Please call for detail. Expires 10/31/2016

NEW ADVENTURES
 Early Learning and Child Development Center
Two Great Locations
 8054 Darrow Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
 (330) 425-2030
 11767 Timber Point Trail, Mantua, OH 44255
 (330) 274-8514
 CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL TOUR
www.naearlylearning.com