

Sports, Arts, & Entertainment

“Memphis Day” will present line-up of both classic and new indies set to screen in Italy December 6-13

Memphis partnering as Sister Cities with Porretta Terme in northern Italy is - according to Memphis/Shelby County Film Commissioner Linn Sittler - “a dream come true!”

MEMPHIS, TN - The latest victory to come from the collaboration is the appearance of “Memphis Day” in the line-up of The Porretta Film Festival (Festival del Cinema di Porretta) December 6-13, 2025. Both Craig Brewer’s 20-year-old groundbreaking feature, Hustle & Flow and Teresa Dickerson’s Hoop Street will be screened in one of the most interesting double-features European audiences have ever seen!

Collaborating with The Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission, The Porretta Film Festival created The Film Exchange in which films made in the region of Emilia-Romagna and films made in Shelby County would be exchanged and shown to local audiences.

This year, The Film Exchange offered a feature competition in which the winner would receive a trip to The Porretta Film Festival and the opportunity to screen their film. The Porretta Film Festival and Brewer are sponsoring the trip.

A jury of film professors, a producer – even an author of books on cinema – selected Hoop Street from four other features by Shelby County filmmakers. According to Luca Elmi, President, The Porretta Film Festival, “In one year, The Film Exchange has grown from our screening only short films from Memphis in 2024 to screening a feature-length film at our 2025 Festival. We are very excited to show off films from our Sister City to our international audience of film lovers.”

According to Brewer, “I’m honored on the 20th Anniversary of Hustle & Flow to know that it will be shown at Memphis’ Sister City’s prestigious film festival-Festival del Cinema di Porretta Terme. What an opportunity to showcase side-by-side my early example of Memphis independent film and an example of local independent film today, Hoop Street!”

Directed by well-known Memphis filmmaker, Princeton James, Hoop Street is a co-production of Dickerson’s company, Isaiah 54 Films, Princeton James Productions, and Gravity Productions.

A small Memphis Delegation will accompany Dickerson and James when she leaves for Porretta Terme in December. The Festival, taking place December 6-13, announced today that “Memphis Day” will occur the closing day of the Festival – December 13th. What a double feature!



A look behind the scenes.

The Filmmakers



Teresa Dickerson



Princeton James

THE FILMMAKERS

Teresa Dickerson
Executive Producer/Financier/Writer
Hoop Street: Hoopstreetmemphis@gmail.com

Hoop Street is Dickerson’s first feature. Coming from a corporate background which includes stints with the Grizzlies NBA Team and The Kroger Company, she easily matched her creative abilities with her business skills. “Having my first feature film, Hoop Street, selected to screen at The Porretta Film Festival is truly beyond anything I could have hoped! I’m so thankful to The Memphis & Shelby County Film and Television Commission for giving local filmmakers like me a platform to share our stories, especially with Hoop Street also receiving The City of Memphis/Film Commission Production Incentive Award for Memphis Filmmakers. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Craig Brewer for sponsoring my flight to Italy and for his belief in independent Memphis films.”

Princeton James
Director/Executive Producer:
Hoop Street: pj@princetonjamesproductions.com
A well-known figure in regional theatre and film circles, James is a Mississippi native who has called Memphis home for many years. A graduate of Ole Miss with a major in Accounting,

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James instead chose to pursue the stage and screen in both Atlanta and Memphis. An accomplished actor, he has held both local and network acting roles. “When Teresa first approached me about Hoop Street, I immediately saw her passion, her work ethic, and her integrity and I knew I wanted to help steward that vision.... I’m grateful to God for the opportunity to operate in my gift and to contribute to another feature film coming out of Memphis and The Mid-South....”

Gravity Productions
Executive Producers & Principals: Mark Williams, Princeton James, Jordan Danelz: jordan@producegravity.com
Hoop Street is the third of four independent films which Gravity Productions has recently produced. “We’re not following Hollywood’s playbook. We’re building our own – one film at a time, right here in Memphis. Each project makes the next one stronger.”

A report from the Memphis Public Safety Institute from sports-military 2

which included Lethality Assessment Protocol [LAP] implementation; and ring camera distribution). It also discussed how to address macro-level outcomes related to agency inter-cooperation and the effects on use of services by victims and recidivism. A process evaluation conducted by Dr. Amaia Iratzoqui and Dr. Sarah Leat found that participants were overall satisfied with the development of the task force and its role as part of the development of a strategic plan to create a CCR to domestic violence.

However, while the process evaluation focused on implementation, a follow-up survey which focused on sustainability identified the Shelby County

Crime Victims and Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC) to lead domestic violence response moving forward. Yet, while the CVRCC may expand to formally take on wholesale connection of victims to services, the CCR effort at a more macro (agency) level presents a separate concern. In addition, Shelby County has not been exposed to the “best practices” of a functioning CCR or FJC.

As an evaluation partner, the PSI has teamed up with Scott County, Tennessee to evaluate its FJC and CCR models, which appear to be successful in modeling both the micro- and macro-level relationships between services and agencies in responding to domestic violence. This evaluation will

hopefully serve two purposes: one, identify and highlight what could be “best practices” of a functioning FJC and larger CCR, which would allow Scott County the opportunity to seek additional state and federal funding to expand its capacity, and two, provide a template that could be adapted for Memphis/Shelby County, but also for FJCs and CCRs across the state.

There are two main needs in Memphis/Shelby County. One is to design and establish a FJC, focusing on direct service referrals and the micro-level relationships between agencies in facilitating a “warm handoff” for victims of domestic violence in receiving services across a variety of forums, including social services,

law enforcement, and the courts. However, the macro-level need to facilitate the larger partnerships between these entities (the function of the CCR) is also needed to direct the development of a community-led FJC. An outside entity, one that is not involved in direct service provision, is needed to facilitate these partnerships. As an academic partner and convener, the PSI provides several advantages: 1) by not being a nonprofit entity, the university relies on a more consistent infrastructure and funding model to drive its work; 2) by not being a service provider, the university does not face the conflict of convening one’s partners; and 3) by relying on academic partners to develop the framework for the CCR,

oversee the formation of the strategic plan, and track its implementation, the project can better draw from “best practices” and strong project design to provide a justification and example for efficacy.

Participants were initially drawn to participate in the task force due to personal connections with university partners, as well as other community stakeholders. The cultivation of these relationships over time has provided the rapport and trust for the partnership to succeed, which are critical elements of academic-practitioner partnerships. However, in its prior funded work, the university has often still been seen as an academic institution and not in an

authoritative position to oversee collaboration. The now-closed Family Safety Center provided that sense of authority, despite its many issues. Given that this entity is now closed, there is a new opportunity to develop a FJC from the ground up with the community’s involvement and direction. The PSI formally serving as the helm of the CCR provides a unique opportunity to convene the larger partnerships without being a service provider itself. The PSI will serve as a neutral, central entity to connect faculty and practitioners, serve as a resource for seeking out and preparing applications for funding opportunities, and conduct and partner on program evaluation and assessment.