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For immediate release:

Paul Roos Gymnasium initiates an annual film competition for high school learners in South Africa and Namibia

In association with Atterbury and WeBuyCars

The Filmit competition is the brainchild of Luize Kroukamp (Head of Culture) and Jan-Hendrik Opperman (Head of Creative Arts & Drama) from Paul Roos Gymnasium. This idea came into existence due to the impact Covid-19 has had on the cultural landscape of schools in 2020 and 2021. With usual theatre programmes, festivals and school competitions drastically affected, these two teachers felt the need to adapt to the times, and initiate something new that could open up alternative opportunities to learners, especially those who are interested in the film and television industries – an ever-growing industry in South Africa and the wider African continent. With the support of Atterbury and WeBuyCars, Paul Roos Gymnasium therefore launches its exciting competition.

High school learners from all schools across the country (South Africa) and in Namibia are invited to pitch a 2-minute film concept for approval by a panel of industry-related judges. The best 20 pitches will be approved to participate in the competition. The twenty participating schools will have the opportunity to attend online master classes as presented by key industry figures in the South African and wider African film and television industries. These master classes will serve to guide them in the developing and producing of their films. Schools are encouraged to work in teams (utilising the strengths and skills of learners from different departments to contribute to and collaborate on the film in all its aspects).

The competition is now open. All 2-minute pitches need to be submitted by 14 June, 2021. Approved concepts will be announced on the 21st of June, 2021. Online master classes will commence on 28 June, 2021. All final and completed film submissions (accompanied by a film poster design) need to be submitted by 11 October, 2021. The public will be given the opportunity to view all 20 entries and cast their vote by liking and sharing the movies they deem the best. The public vote will count 10% towards the judging process. Winners will be announced on the 8th of November the winners. The winning categories are as follows:

- Best film (allocated to a specific school / production team)

- Best director
- Best screenplay
- Best cinematographer
- Best film score / film music
- Best special effects / creativity on set
- Best actor & actress in a lead role
- Best actor & actress in a supporting role
- Best graphic designer (poster design)

Each category will be awarded a cash prize and an educational prize. Educational prizes are one-on-one online or on-site mentorship sessions with key-industry persons.

The goal is to run this competition on a yearly basis and inspire the youth to become active participants, contributors and creators in the South African and broader African film industries. Learners are challenged to work with minimal equipment by using their smartphones or single cameras. No outside help or assistance is allowed. Schools need to take ownership of their product and use the film medium to express their own ideas and talents.

END

Please see the attached document for your perusal. Let us know if you would be willing to publish an article about this initiative and whether you need a photo for publishing purposes. Furthermore, let us know if we can keep you updated on the progress of the competition and its final outcomes.

Our next media wave will introduce the participating judges and presenters of the master classes. We will have some wonderful new news regarding our prizes and subsequent exposure for the winning films.

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