

Conroe filmmakers hiring 100 actors for TV series on the dangers of teen drinking and driving

Sondra Hernandez, Staff writer
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A New Caney firefighter moves a recently removed car door during the Shattered Lives presentation on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at Splendor High School.
Michael Wines, Staff Photographer / Houston Chronicle

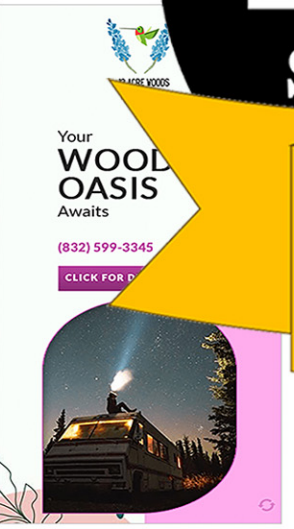
After being involved in the drunken driving crash simulation program Shattered Lives for 20 years at Montgomery County high schools, Conroe filmmakers Gary Parker and Bruce May want to take the program's message to a wider audience.

They are looking for 50 adult actors and 50 student actors to play roles in a new 10-episode series they are developing based on the program where teens are involved in a simulated drunken driving or distracted driving crash.

Read more about opportunities to participate in the series at the [Shattered Lives tv series website.](#)

"Twenty-one years ago, Mike Valdez and Holly Pichette introduced me to Montgomery County Shattered Lives program. Their goal is to discourage high school students from drinking and distracted driving by creating a real-life experience at the school using the students themselves," Parker said.

"The crash scene is set with students who are injured, arrested and killed as the real-life scenario plays out. I have been blessed to produce hundreds of videos over the past 21 years that document these events. Our goal each year is to create videos that touch people's lives and make a difference in their schools, their families, and in the lives of their friends."



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However, during the pandemic the program could not be in the schools and it has not yet

The filmmakers felt this message needed to be

The production of the series is tied to the launch of the 2023 Summer Film School where participants will learn to write, direct, act and edit a short film, or a TV miniseries, either behind, or in front of the camera and crew.

The film school begins in mid-July and continues for six weeks this summer. Students interested in participating can register online at the Indie Films Studios website. They are hoping to have a class of 20 to 25 who will learn the fundamentals and then can work on the series.



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Parker has more than 40 years of experience in film and television and May has worked in media and marketing for more than 25 years and has written the screenplay for the dramatic TV miniseries.

The series follows the story of fictional character James Stewart, the driver responsible for the deaths of his friends in a distracted-driving crash. Following his conviction for manslaughter, he endures years of incarceration. Seeking forgiveness, he turns to the prison ministry where he finds an answer that surprises both him and his community.

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May spent time with a man who brought reality to the script.

"That interview was so moving, and it was exactly what I needed to be able to write realistic prison scenes. Probably more realistic than things you see on TV today," May said. "So that was exciting for me, as a writer, to be able to jump in and write those kinds of scenes."

The series will begin shooting in late spring. To see more about the film, go to: [indiefilmstudios.com/summer-film-class.](#)

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see on the water.

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