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Library to Screen Cajun Film for Mardi Gras

New Braunfels, TX - The New Braunfels Public Library will screen the film “Dance for a Chicken, a Cajun Mardi Gras” on Thursday, February 12th at 7 p.m. This film chronicles the “Mardi Gras Courir,” or Fat Tuesday Run, as it is practiced in rural South Louisiana.

During the event, groups of costumed revelers ride or walk to farms to collect ingredients for a gumbo that is assembled and prepared at the end of the day. If the farmers offer up a chicken, the Cajun revelers must catch it, or dance for it, or obtain it by trickery.

This award-winning film provides an intriguing account of the way medieval French culture lives on in South Louisiana. The Cajuns are descendants of the French Canadians who lived in Nova Scotia (then the French colony of “Acadia”), and settled in Louisiana after the British displaced them in the 18th-century. They brought with them the tradition of Mardi Gras, a carnival celebration that culminates on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. How the customs of Mardi Gras have evolved over time, and how the rural Mardi Gras differs from the more elaborate celebration that takes place in the city of New Orleans, are subjects that filmmaker Pat Mire addresses in this thoughtful documentary.

Because this film contains some intense images, “Dance for a Chicken” may not be suitable for young children.

“This film offers an interesting cultural perspective, as it focuses on a very old tradition that still exists in rural communities in South Louisiana,” said Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “Those interested in Cajun culture, or who have enjoyed a visit to New Orleans and Cajun country, should find this documentary film quite fascinating.”

For more information contact Alix Samuels at 830-221-4316.

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