



# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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## ***Teacher of the Year: A Documentary Based on a True Story* getting state and national attention**

**Raleigh, N.C.** - A new documentary made by two North Carolina teachers and filmmakers about another teacher, Angie Scioli, is getting some attention. The film, *Teacher of the Year: A Documentary Based on a True Story* explores the question, what happens when a real teacher tries to be a Hollywood hero? The grassroots approach to making, funding, and marketing the film is paying off for filmmakers and teachers Rob Phillips and Jay Korreck. "We're really proud of all of the friends, family members, and colleagues who have supported us and helped us get the word out about the film. That effort is starting to translate to more exposure for the film from movie fans and educators," Korreck said.

The film premiered in March at the Teachers, Teaching, and Media Conference at Wake Forest University, and will make its festival debut this Saturday, May 12th, at 11am at the Longleaf Film Festival in Raleigh. "Being selected by the impressive panel of judges working with Longleaf is a real honor. These people know movies, and we feel fortunate to be included with this year's official selections," says Phillips. As the filmmakers were preparing for Longleaf, they received two additional pieces of good news: *Teacher of the Year* was selected by the Cape Fear Independent Film Festival in Wilmington, NC, and the filmmakers also formalized a partnership with the National Humanities Center to get the film in front of a national audience.

"Angie is on a quest for perfection as a teacher, a mom, a wife, a daughter, and an advocate for public education. In the few screenings we've had so far, people have been very moved by that. When you combine that kind of traditional, heroic quest with moments that question the implications of that kind of quest, we think the story will resonate with audiences inside and outside of education. It doesn't hurt that Angie's pretty funny, too," said Korreck.

The National Humanities Center partnership started when a friend put the filmmakers in contact with Andy Mink, Vice President of Education Programs at the Center. Mink quickly saw opportunities to use the film in creative ways. "More than providing voyeuristic insight to teaching as a profession, TOTY reminds us that teaching is a passion, a lifestyle, a calling. Seen through that lens, the work we do in support of educators should focus on all aspects of their professional and personal growth. Teachers thrive when treated as highly qualified professionals with an experience and expertise to be valued and acknowledged. TOTY is the ideal vehicle to extend this conversation in meaningful ways across the state and the nation," said Mink.

As part of the partnership with the National Humanities Center, *Teacher of the Year* will be available to stream online from July 31st to August 1st. On August 2nd, there will be an online panel discussion around the question, how do we support teachers like Angie? "Partnering with the NHC gives us an opportunity to reach a national audience, and start some valuable conversations about teaching and learning. Many of the educational policies that are happening in North Carolina are starting to happen at the national level, and Angie's evolution from teacher to teacher-advocate is another rich source of discussion," Phillips added.

For more information about festivals, screenings, and streamings, please visit

<http://teacheroftheyearfilm.com>.

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