

NEWS RELEASE

August 25, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Abe Villarreal
Phone: 575.538.6336
news@wnmu.edu



WNMU STUDENT-PRODUCED VIDEO WINS AWARDS, FESTIVAL ENTRY

Silver City, NM – Elizabeth (BJ) Allen, an Expressive Arts student at Western New Mexico University, was recently recognized by the Tucson Film & Music Festival for her music video “Billy Shannon.”

The honor of an official selection to the festival marks the third recognition for Allen’s three-minute video. Previous accolades include Best In Show during the Spring 2011 campus exhibition of student projects and an Award of Excellence by TheIndieFest.com.

“The video is a black and white love letter to the people and landscape of Silver City,” Allen said.

Produced in and around Silver City, the video features local actors and is narrated through song by acoustic blues musician and composer Jonny Mahaffey.

“The story is about a woman who has an affair with the most reviled man in town,” Allen said. “In the video she confronts the consequences of her actions.”

Allen credits the community and WNMU for the support she received for the video’s production. “The Expressive Arts Department, iDEALab and professor Peter Bill really provided the perfect framework for this project,” she said.

The WNMU iDEALab is a division of the Expressive Arts Department that focuses on interdisciplinary expressive arts combining visual arts, theater, music and a digital center.

Allen is a Wisconsin native who relocated to Silver City in 2010. Her professional background includes photojournalism and public access television production. She is currently enrolled in digital and studio art courses including special effects and sculpture.

“Billy Shannon” will be available for viewing after the Tucson Film & Music Festival scheduled for October 7-10, 2011.

To view WNMU student-produced videos, visit www.vimeo.com/channels/idea.



Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.

###