

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Shepherd Student Filmmaker Takes On West Virginia Drug Epidemic

*Shepherdstown, WV - April 4th, 2017* - Shepherd University Communication student Austin David Susman will be premiering his Senior Capstone Short Film, *Dr. J & Mr. H*, at the Shepherdstown Opera House on Wednesday April 12th, 2017. The film is a short drama about the West Virginia Heroin Epidemic loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

This short film is the culmination of Susman's time at Shepherd, as well as a year long research and production process looking at the drug epidemic, various adaptations of the Jekyll and Hyde Story, and adaptation theory as a whole. It tells the story of Dr. Henry Jeffries (portrayed by local actor Jeffrey Marcum), a modern day Dr. Jekyll who turns to opioids after a bad car accident. While Jeffries is a fictional character, he is a composite of many victims of drugs in West Virginia and around the country Susman read about during his research. In many ways Jeffries is not only one addict, but a metaphor for the state itself during this crisis. Rounding out the cast is Temetrie Encarnacion as Dr. Stone, Kaitlyn Miller as Andy, Michael Pittel as Alex, and Josh Meyers as Dr. Lanyon.

The film is produced by Austin Susman Productions in association with the Shepherd University Department of Communication as Austin David Susman's Senior Capstone Project. Written, Edited and Directed by Austin David Susman, Production crew includes Dr. Jason McKahan, Breanna Gladden, Attalia Brown, Greg Havenner, Alex Ponton and Blair Chernelstein.

The premiere will be held at the Shepherdstown Opera House 131 West German Street on Wednesday April 12th 2017. Doors open at 6:30 and the film begins at 7:00. The event is open to the public and admission is free. The film will be released publicly on YouTube shortly after the screening.

Behind the scenes photos and publicity stills available upon request.

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