

# THE RAMAPO NEWS

A publication by the students for the Ramapo College community

THURSDAY, February 18, 2010 XL No. 14

## Haitian Students Share Their Stories *Raw Footage Depicts the Devastation*

By **KAITLIN MCGUINNESS**  
Staff Writer

Students of the Jacmel Cine Institute came to Ramapo Wednesday to screen their film that depicts the destruction wrought by the earthquake in Haiti.

The students of the Jacmel Ciné Institute “survived, and they’re the ones who went out with cameras and shot most of the footage we saw on American television,” said visual arts Professor Shalom Gorewitz.

In the wake of the earthquake, relief efforts focused mainly on the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

“Nobody came to rescue anybody in this neighborhood,” student Bayard Jean Bernard said.

“As filmmakers, we wanted to tell this to the international community,” Ebby Angel Louis said.

The students sought to draw attention to the need in Jacmel by filming people trapped under rubble, searching for loved ones and walking through the devastation. Their raw footage showed corpses and people struggling to survive. Many people had yet to be moved, and many injured people needed medical attention despite a dwindling supply of medicine and supplies.

Jacmel is the cultural capital of Haiti, containing artists, musicians and film students. Cine Institute opened in 2008 for students to continue their education after high school

see HAITI on page 6



photo courtesy of Creative Commons

## Viewers Find Unique Experiences in ABC’s “Lost”

By **KERI ANN FLACCOMIO**  
Staff Writer

Is the real John Locke truly dead? Did the explosion work? Does everyone get off the island in the end? The speculation swirled as the final season premiere of the television series “Lost” intrigued fans who have been waiting six years to have their questions answered.

More than 15 million people tuned in on Feb. 2 to watch the three-hour season six premiere, beginning with a one-hour recap, and finishing off with a two-hour episode that, for many devoted fans, raised more questions than it answered.

First airing on ABC on Sept. 22, 2004, “Lost” is a serial drama that tells the story of

48 survivors who are stranded on an island in the South Pacific when Oceanic Flight 815 unexpectedly crashes en route from Sydney to Los Angeles. The episodes use the flashback, flash-forward and, most recently, flash-sideways to provide background information and advance the story.

The recap introduced the main characters: Jack, the doctor and leader; Kate, the fugitive; Sawyer, the con man; Sayid, the Iraqi torturer; and Locke, the man searching for faith. It also explained the major storyline: Researchers on the island 30 years prior had drilled into an energy pocket, causing the plane crash in 2004. After 108 days, some survivors returned home from the island, but ultimately came back—with some time traveling to the 1970’s—in an attempt to save

those left behind by detonating a hydrogen bomb and preventing the “incident.”

This season picks up with two storylines unfolding at once—one with the characters still on the island, and one where their flight never crashes.

“I thought that it raised a big thematic question of the entire series,” said Kelly Dolak, who teaches The New TV Criticism as a professor in the School of Contemporary Arts at Ramapo. “If you have lived through a traumatic experience and yet gained so much insight into yourself and the human condition, but were given the chance to change the past and not go through the pain, would you do it?”

“[The characters] are given the opportunity—they think—to change what happened

and have the plane land safely in Los Angeles and not crash on the island,” Dolak added. “That would mean they wouldn’t have met one another and experienced this difficult journey.”

With the passing of each season, “Lost” has had an infectious appeal. Many who hear about the hype, even now, make an effort to start watching the show from the first season and catch up with regular viewers.

According to a 2009 press release from Nielsen Online’s VideoCensus, “Lost” was the most-watched show online in December 2008, with 1.425 million viewers watching at least part of an episode.

But with so much happening at once, many

see LOST on page 6

# Viewers Hope Final Season of "Lost" Answers Their Questions

Continued from page 1

wonder how "Lost" fans keep up with the show, why they bother to keep watching and what keeps the ratings increasing.

"I think the key element in making the show successful is the hold out of answers until now," said junior Katie Agresti. "It has created a fan base that just has to find out what happens."

Junior Jackie Ostrander agrees that the desire for answers has been a big factor in the show's success. "The best aspect of this show has to be its suspense factor," she said. "The plot is unpredictable and exciting and the characters are each unique. I also like the overreaching and classic themes of the show—like good vs. evil—that are incorporated in clever, and

experiences set this show apart from other TV programs," she said. "Also, its exploration of what it would mean to start over and to get a second chance. Each character helps the other explore who they are."

Freshman Stephanie Onder began

and exist beyond college students and those who specialize in media studies. Robert Sproul, convener and assistant professor of social sciences and human services at Ramapo, has watched every episode of the show. Sproul said he even

possibly because I don't want it to end. In any event, I want to be blown away by the ending."

"My only hope," said Ostrander, "is that it reaches a conclusive ending and I can stop wondering what that black smoke is all about, why there are so many John Lockes, and how all of the characters' lives turn out."

Agresti wants questions answered on a broad spectrum: What is going to happen to everyone on the island? Why did they have to be there in the first place? How does the island make connections with people? "I hope that all the answers to questions will be resolved and it ends without leaving the audience hanging," she said.

Onder wants to see some characters from the past and hopes the show ends with them remaining on the island.

And then there is Dolak, who represents the fans who hope "Lost" will stay true to form, leaving them wondering and theorizing.

"I hope that it ends ambiguously," she said. "I don't want any easy answers. The series as a whole avoids easy wrap-ups and answers, and I wouldn't want the writers to go there now."



photo courtesy of ABC

The promotional poster for the final season of "Lost" featured the cast in an imitation of "The Last Supper."

*"For some, a return home would be a catastrophe. For some, a joy. I don't know how I want it to end possibly because I don't want it to end. In any event, I want to be blown away by the ending."*

*- Bob Sproul, convener and assistant professor of social sciences and human services*

watching past episodes of "Lost" online. After missing the first three seasons on television, she has caught up in time to watch new episodes as they air. She considers herself a seven or eight on a scale of one to ten for how big of a fan she is.

"I started watching it when my junior or sophomore English teacher used 'Lost' as an example of a book we were reading," she said. "The first season got me hooked and I could never stop watching it since. I keep watching because I just love all the characters and some things need to be cleared for me."

Aside from watching the show, Onder owns a "Lost" calendar, game, puzzle and posters. Fans can buy merchandise, find episode guides, chat with other viewers and explore the show further on the "Lost" Web site.

"Lost" fans comprise a wide age range,

"had to get both [John] Lockes in the discussion at least briefly" during his History of Social Thought class last week.

"I don't even remember what drew me to the first one," he said. "I guess I'm an old Robinson Crusoe/Lord of the Flies fan and decided to give it a shot."

After watching the show on its original airdates for the first few seasons, Sproul grew tired of the commercials. He now records the show when it airs and watches the following day, fast-forwarding through commercials to minimize the wait for answers.

Although "Lost" fans share many common interests, each hopes for a different outcome when episode 121—the series finale—airs on May 23, 2010.

"For some, a return home would be a catastrophe. For some, a joy," said Sproul. "I don't know how I want it to end

usually subtle, ways."

Dolak believes that the open-ended story approach used in "Lost" and the strong development of the main characters have allowed viewers to relate to the show by forming their own interpretations and making personal connections with the characters.

"The complex characters and diverse life

**Missing out on "Lost?"**

**Catch up on ABC.com or Hulu.com.**

**Missed last week's episode? Catch it Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. on ABC before the new episode premieres at 9 p.m.**

## Students From Haitian Institute Present Film to Ramapo

Continued from page 1

without having to leave the province.

When the earthquake hit, the Institute and all of its facilities were destroyed. The diligent film students immediately got to work, filming the devastation and disseminating the images via Internet.

"I had a mission," said student Ebby Angel Louis. "It was to grab my camera and record people's suffering."

Bernard spoke about trying to spread awareness of the devastation and the importance of trying to help the country. People were injured and buried in the rubble, he said.

"We could not just film while we see someone struggling; you help."

The students presented a documentary, in its entirety, of the footage they collected,

narrated in French and set to Haitian music.

"Through the power of film, the Institute provides a voice to the victims of the Haitian earthquake," a voiceover to the disturbing images said.

The students are in America after assisting in the creation of the new "We Are the World" video to benefit the victims of the earthquake. Student Jocelyne Firmin spoke of how joyful they were to be working on this project and how the Haitian people needed opportunities like this, rather than mere sympathy, in order to sustain themselves.

Paul Haggis, director of the video, has been connected to the Ciné Institute for a long time and asked them to lend their footage and get involved.

"[As an artist] having something to do keeps us from being depressed," Louis

said.

Firmin said that despite the suffering in Haiti, "we still remain a people with dignity."

She also said that the disaster brought people together.

"Most things were gone," Firmin said.

Houses, along with cars were gone.

"Everyone came together to help each other."

At the same time, Firmin admitted that Haiti has major government problems.

"We do have bad governance – it's not a secret."

Ciné Institute is free but receives funding from the government. The Edouard Eloi, Manager of the Berrie Center, commented on this.

"Haitian government doesn't do things that doesn't put money in their pocket. This tragedy will hopefully be a chance to

re-mold the government and the education system."

The students also showed a short film of theirs, set in Jacmel, from a time before the devastation, when they were focused only on creating their art.

"[Ramapo is] something of a sanctuary for Haitian art; it is very fortunate and special for these students to be here, amongst their peers, talking student to student," he said.

The fourth student, Marie Andree MonTisolle, addressed the audience in Creole at the end of the presentation, and her fellow students and Edouard Eloi translated as she spoke about being the only woman who works at the Ciné Institute and how grateful she was to be working on such an compelling project.