



"Empowering youth through multimedia"

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**SPY HOP PRODUCTIONS AND CORRIDOR PRODUCTIONS PRESENT THE PREMIERE OF  
*DEAD WEST***

Salt Lake City, UT – Spy Hop Productions in conjunction with Corridor Productions announced today the premiere of *DEAD WEST*, the fifth film by director Eli Joseph Sasich (*TERMINAL*, *LUCID DAYS*). The short film premieres on Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at 7:00 pm (by invitation only) and will be followed by a public screening Thursday, May 12, 2005 at 7:00 pm at the Gateway Megaplex 12 Theatres located at 165 South Rio Grande Street. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available for purchase at the door.

The *Dead West* project was conceived to promote the restoration and preservation of the Johnson Canyon movie set outside of Kanab, Utah. The set is one of the last freestanding western movie sets in the United States. The film is set during the late 1800s in the old West. After being bucked from her horse, a young woman wanders the woods in search of help. Injured and disoriented, she staggers into a deserted town. She is running from her dark and troubled past when she finds herself in the middle of a judgmental town confronted by an old creaky gallows with a fresh noose.

Director, Eli Joseph Sasich, was one of Spy Hop Production's first film students and participated in numerous workshops before becoming an apprentice. Now a film major at Occidental College in California, Sasich has been approached by several A-list talent agencies in Hollywood that would like to represent him as a director. Sasich comments, "My greatest learning experience to date has been the making of *Dead West*. In the vein of a *Twilight Zone* episode, *Dead West* is a highly visual story that reshapes the western into a gothic suspense thriller. This complex and exciting project has stretched my communication, collaboration and technical skills, while affording a huge opportunity for artistic growth. As director, I have been involved in every aspect of filmmaking from fundraising, pre-production and planning, to post-production and editing." *Dead West* is currently in consideration for the Student Academy Awards.

Located in the historic Artspace district in downtown Salt Lake City, Spy Hop Productions is a not-for-profit youth media center founded in 1999. Spy Hop Productions has successfully served over 5,000 young people along the Wasatch Front, and is now gaining recognition as one of the most effective youth media and arts education centers in the country. Our recent grant awards include the Time Warner Foundation's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy Skills Award, The Starbucks Foundation's Youth Leadership Development Award in 2004 and 2005, Community Technology Center's Network for Youth Visions and Stronger Neighborhoods, 2004 and 2005, and the 2005 Martin Luther King Junior Youth Leadership Award.

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