



July 28, 2021

ATEC Professor's Film Wins Awards

ATEC Professor Paul Lester's "The Calendar" wins Best Documentary Feature Film at the Rome Movie Awards, Best Editing at Cannes World Film Festival, and Award of Prestige at the San Diego Movie Awards.



A film created by [Dr. Paul Lester](#), professor of instruction in the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication (ATEC) at UT Dallas, has been named Best Documentary Feature Film by the Rome Movie Awards.

The Calendar is a two-hour film that is composed of clips from movies, television programs and YouTube videos in which characters, participants, textual overlays or dated objects reveal each day and month for an entire year.

Lester said the COVID-19 pandemic provided the time to work on the project.

"I started the project before the pandemic, but then this experimental film simply helped me get through a few months during the lockdown," Lester said. "After positive feedback from friends, I applied to about 20 film festivals."

Besides the film's commendation from the Rome Movie Awards, it also won a best editing award by the Cannes World Film Festival and the Award of Prestige for best editing from the San Diego Movie Awards.

Lester's research at UT Dallas focuses on mass media ethics, new communications technologies and visual communications. He said he plans to have a showing of the film on campus during the fall semester.

"I hope the work inspires my students to be passionate and to get obsessed about an idea they may have," said Lester, an accomplished photojournalist. "For me, this film merged the two in a rewarding way."

To learn more about the ATEC at UT Dallas Design and Creative Practice Program visit atec.utdallas.edu.

"Large portions of this story came from the story ["Arts, Technology Professors Receive Honors"](#) originally published in the UT Dallas News Center by Phil Roth.



Students learn techniques of film production in the [ATEC Design and Creative Practice](#) concentration.

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