

Documentary on Strawberry Shortcake creator premiering at Circle Cinema

BY JIMMIE TRAMEL
Tulsa World, Okla.
(TNS)

Circle Cinema will be the site for a 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18 premiere of “Strawberry Colored Glasses: The Story of Muriel Fahrion.”

The feature-length documentary delves into the life of Fahrion, an artist and former Tulsa resident who created Strawberry Shortcake, the Care Bears and the Get Along Gang. Fahrion, who splits time between residences in Beggs and Cleveland, Ohio, will attend the premiere.

“Strawberry Colored Glasses” is a PowDot Studios presentation directed by Bill Doty and produced by Tonya Power with music from Jocelyn Rowland Khalaf. All live in Tulsa. The premiere event, which will include a post-film Q&A session with Fahrion and the filmmakers, is being presented by Tulsa Underground Film Fest. For tickets, go to circlecinema.org.

Doty, interviewed in advance of the premiere, was asked what drew him to Fahrion’s story. He said he and Fahrion have a mu-

tual friend who suggested they meet.

“At the time, Muriel had been approached by a few people to shoot a documentary, and I don’t think she liked the directions that they were going to go or what they were doing,” Doty said.

“So I agreed to have a lunch with Muriel. And what I didn’t know is that even though I was kind of learning about her, she was auditioning me, as well. And, by the time we were done, she said, ‘Let’s do it. I think you should shoot this.’”

Doty had an inkling the project was going to be a worthy pursuit. “I didn’t know what it was going to be, but I knew it was going to be something,” he said.

“My wife and I, we’re both filmmakers. I lean more towards directing. She leans more towards producing. And then we just started doing some immediate research and we thought, ‘Oh wow, this is definitely going to be something big.’ The fan base is there, and the story is there, and the character herself is there.”

The clincher came when they traveled to a 2025 comic con in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where

Fahrion was a guest. For two days, they watched people of all ages line up to meet the artist. They told her things like “you helped me” and “you changed my life.”

“And we thought, ‘Oh wow, this is even bigger than we thought,’” Doty said. “(The film) is not just going to be this fluff piece. It’s going to be a piece about fans.”

Doty, who was re-watching Chattanooga footage recently, said he wishes he could show the 48 hours of people in line to meet her. Fans shared stories about how Fahrion’s creations carried them through dark times or a friendless period. And they found out, according to Doty, that Fahrion was an even better person than they thought she was going to be.

Doty was asked to finish this: People should see the documentary because ...

“Because it will give you an insight to the world of a creator, and I think you’ll find out that she has done so much more than you think,” he said.

“It’s not just Strawberry Shortcake. It’s a story about a woman who kind of grew up a little poor

and a woman who had to make it in a man’s world and thrived and became a creative director. And then, right when she kind of moved on from the Strawberry Shortcake thing, she loses her husband and she could have gave up. ...

“Now she’s this 75-year-old woman who said ‘No, I’m not going to give up. I’m going to start thriving again.’ So this has basically been a rebirth of her life at the age of 75. She just turned 80, and she’s traveling to conventions and people are just now being introduced to her. Ten years ago, hardly anybody knew who she was. She had 80 Facebook followers and she posted drawings here and there. But now, suddenly, it kind of proves that, at any time in your life, you get to start all over again.”

Because the documentary is an anthem to Fahrion and her fans, you will see “your people” in the film if you are a fan of Strawberry Shortcake, according to Doty, who suggested that everyone — across generations — has a Strawberry Shortcake story.

“I think that’s why this film will resonate with people.”

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200 Public Notice

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Christa Pike leaves hospital, returns to prison after failed execution

DPA
(TNS)

Death row inmate Christa Pike, who survived a botched execution in Tennessee 10 days ago, has been discharged from hospital and returned to prison, her lawyers said on Saturday.

Pike, 50, is back at the Nashville prison where she has been held for more than 30 years, according to a statement from her legal team.

“She is continuing to receive medical care at the prison, and we will continue to track her recovery,” the lawyers said.

Pike’s execution attempt at-



Christa Pike in an undated photo. (Tennessee Department of Correction/ ZUMA Press/TNS)

tracted global attention because she would have been the first woman executed in Tennessee in more than 200 years.

She survived an attempted execution by lethal injection on Sept. 30. According to authorities, she was administered the two doses of pentobarbital prescribed under the state’s execution protocol.

She was subsequently taken to hospital unconscious. Earlier this week, she regained consciousness and began speaking and walking.

On Wednesday, a Tennessee court ordered authorities to preserve all evidence related to the failed execution attempt, includ-

ing intravenous lines, syringes and documents detailing Pike’s condition.

It remains unclear whether the state will seek a new execution date.

Tennessee’s Republican Gov. Bill Lee has suspended further executions until at least the end of the year and ordered an independent investigation into the incident.

Pike was sentenced to death in 1996 for the murder of 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer. She was 18 years old at the time of the crime. Slemmer was tortured and killed in a remote area near the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

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