

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Fresh Films Youth-Created TV Pilot to Film in a Chicago Historic Beverly-Morgan Park Mansion

July 12, 2018 – Beverly/Morgan Park, IL: [Fresh Films](#) is coming to Chicago's Beverly-Morgan Park neighborhood with 14 teen filmmakers to film a television pilot at the historic [Ingersoll-Blackwelder House](#). Fresh Films started as an after-school film program in Chicago in 2002; since then it has been giving teens around the country the chance to gain career experience in film through its week-long summer programs pairing youth with industry professionals.

The pilot the teen filmmakers are producing is a spooky but lighthearted tale about a young woman who inherits her grandmother's inn and finds she has the power to communicate with the ghostly guests that come with it! Filming will take place from July 17-20, 2018 at the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House. The Queen Anne Victorian built in the mid-1870s, serves as the perfect backdrop for the TV show.

Fresh Films engages teens in filmmaking, but also the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers that are actively a part of the industry. Sandra Biedron, owner of the Ingersoll-Blackwelder home, is also a physicist and engineer and was thrilled to have the teens film at her home. Biedron's career has included teaching physics to sound engineers. "I love how Fresh Films is melding the excitement of film with science and technology. There are many careers like visual effects, sound engineering, even lights and camera that need STEM skills. And having this take place at our mansion, is a win for filmmaking, education, science and technology."

In addition to working on the film set, the teen filmmakers are also taking part in the inaugural year of the Fresh Films Career Path Program presented by [Best Buy Foundation](#). The youth will develop career skills as they work on a Hollywood-style film set alongside industry professionals, rotating through all on-set positions working in camera, audio, lighting, continuity – and more. They'll also be honing their soft skills as they work with producers to run casting calls, finalize filming and manage location details.

And all of those skills will come in handy once the filming has wrapped. Starting July 23, participants will jump into 4-week internship placements with Chicago companies like United Way, Chicago Filmmakers and Claire Simon Casting.

The TV pilot will be reviewed by executives from Amazon Studios and Disney Channel Original Movies. Last year's teen-created pilot, [Gwen's World of Weird](#), was picked up by The Wolper Organization (Roots, Bates Motel) and they are currently shopping the show to kids' TV networks.

Information about the 2018 TV pilot release will be available on [fresh-films.com](#) in the fall. Year round, Fresh Films engages teens via school programming and 1-day camps and workshops. Teens never need experience to be involved with the program and the program is free to them.



fresh-films.com

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About Fresh Films:

Now based at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, Fresh Films has been engaging youth behind the camera and creating youth-targeted TV shows, films and original content since 2002—all purposed to make a difference in young lives. Other films include *The Stream* a coming-of-age family comedy benefitting Boys & Girls Clubs of America and featuring Mario Lopez (*Extra*), Kelly Rutherford (*Gossip Girl*), Christopher Gorham (*Covert Affairs*) and Rainn Wilson (*Backstrom*); and “*Detectives Club*,” a science TV show for kids. Fresh Films is the non-profit arm of Dreaming Tree Films. More information is at www.fresh-films.com.

Together with Augustana College faculty, Fresh Films helped launch Augustana College’s new Entertainment & Media Industries immersive minor, which offers both academic courses and hands-on internships to prepare students for leadership roles in the \$695B Media & Entertainment Industry. Information on the program is available at www.augustana.edu.

About the Ingersoll-Blackwelder House:

Sandra Biedron has owned the Ingersoll-Blackwelder house with her husband, Stephen Milton, also a physicist and engineer, since 2014. The home was once owned by Gertrude Blackwelder, the first woman to vote in Cook County, IL. Watercolor artist and local preservationist Jack Simmerling later raised his family in the sprawling house on Chicago’s Southwest Side. Biedron and Milton are the latest owners and began an extensive rehab designed to insure public access to the building and maintain its distinct architecture which dates back to 1873. They host a variety of events both for families as well as open the house to art, medical, social science, and science/engineering public functions. More information is available here <http://www.ingersoll-blackwelderhouse.com>.