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Page 36



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Page 27



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Page 26

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## MotionMasters, UC to Develop Documentary on State Capitol

CHARLESTON — A documentary film on West Virginia's state capitol is under way.

**MotionMasters**, a Charleston film and video production company, has joined the **University of Charleston** to produce "Temple of Democracy: West Virginia's State Capitol," which is scheduled for completion in 2007. It will be the first documentary ever produced about the history of the State Capitol.

The project will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the completion of the current capitol building, designed by renowned architect **Cass Gilbert**.

"This story has so many facets," said **Diana Sole**, president of MotionMasters. "There's the history of how it seesawed between Wheeling and Charleston, the story about it burning to the ground on what is now Capitol Street here in Charleston, the political intrigue of how it came to be located where it is now — and how a very frugal Legislature demanded it be constructed on a pay-as-you-go plan. Then, of course, there's so much to tell about Cass Gilbert, the internationally acclaimed architect who designed the structure."

MotionMasters has produced a number of documentaries including "The Soul of the Senate: **Robert C. Byrd**," "A Principled Man: **Rev. Leon H. Sullivan**" and "**John Marshall** — Citizen, Statesman, Jurist."

The architectural and artistic design of the West Virginia Capitol is consid-



Photo courtesy of West Virginia State Archives

**Cass Gilbert** designed the State Capitol in Charleston, shown during its construction, above. At right, architect **Cass Gilbert**, center, was a highly successful architect of his era.



ered one of Gilbert's crowning achievements. Gilbert also designed the **Woolworth Building** in New York City and the **U.S. Supreme Court** building in Washington, D.C.

Major funding for the project is being provided by **Appalachian Power**. Additional support to date includes the **Huntington Foundation**, **The Dow Chemical Co.**, **Columbia Gas Transmission**, **Walker Machinery** and the **Haddad Foundation**.

"This is the second project in which we've worked with Motion Masters," said **Mark Dempsey**, vice president of

external affairs for **Appalachian Power** in West Virginia. "We were pleased with the quality of the **Robert C. Byrd** documentary, and we believe the capitol documentary will play an equally important role in documenting the state's history."

"We're especially pleased that we are able to help make the documentary available to the state's children through distribution to schools."

Former newspaper editor and author **James E. Casto** will serve as the project's researcher and scriptwriter. Casto is senior public information specialist at the **Robert C. Byrd Institute** for

**Advanced Flexible Manufacturing** and is the former editorial page editor of **The Herald-Dispatch** in Huntington.

**Ed Rabel**, an Emmy Award-winning journalist and Charleston native, will narrate "Temple of Democracy: West Virginia's State Capitol."

Rabel has recently returned to Charleston to work with his alma mater, the **University of Charleston**, as special assistant for advancement.

The hour-long documentary is designed for statewide television broadcast and will be provided free of charge to schools and libraries throughout West Virginia. It will also be available for purchase by the general public in 2007.

### How To Contribute:

All contributions are tax deductible.

Checks should be made payable to the University of Charleston.

Please note that your donation be directed to *The Temple of Democracy — West Virginia State Capitol*.

Mail to: University of Charleston  
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