

Local TV show explores the heart of the arts

By Linda Meaux
Gazette Reporter

Gazette Photo by Linda Meaux

With "a love of Christian music" Praise Music Productions was born in 1996. Sudie Landry and Frances Cormier used their own contact lists to get bookings for Christian music artists.

In 2004, health crises brought the company to a halt: Landry suffered a heart attack and Cormier had a stroke. A season of healing took place and both are ready for a "new season."

And a new medium.

Not content to bring musical artists together with live audiences, the company now has a program on one of the public interest channels on the Cox network, called Louisiana Heart Beats.

The inspiration for the name came after the two saw a picture of a soaring eagle. "Louisiana He(art) Beats" breaks down to "He" for God, the word "art" and "beat" to cover the art of music, according to the two. The company's mission remains the same: to bring folks with a gift the chance to share and inspire others.

The company provides an opportunity for Louisiana-based ministries, organizations, artists, musicians, authors, businesses and others in all forms of the arts to gain recognition for and share their work, to motivate and inspire others.

Dates of upcoming interviews are posted on their website, praisemusicpro@peoplepc.com, which also contains a wealth of information for local ministries and others to connect to business opportunities. If you or your organization has a talent or a positive influence on the community you feel should be featured on the show contact Landry to schedule a time to visit. You can also follow them on YouTube and Twitter.

Cori Romero, Surge Productions, the groups' recruiter, photographer and interviewer said the company secured a slot on AOL Channel 16 where they will host the LHB talk show. LHB traveled to The Courtableau Bed and Breakfast in Washington for its first interview with John La Fleur II, chef and author of the new cookbook, "Creole Gourmet Secrets of Louisiana."

Upcoming programs



In the studio for Louisiana Heart Beats are (from left) Cori Romero of Surge Production and Sudie Landry with LHB and two Lafayette musicians: wrestler-turned-country music star Mack Johnson and Carl Comeaux of Drumbeat Evangelistic Ministries.

will feature Mack Johnson, WWE pro-wrestler turned country music artist who had the dream opportunity of a life time when he opened at a Geno Delafosse concert held at Evangeline Downs; Carl Comeaux, evangelist with Drumbeat Evangelistic Ministries, performing some of his original music; Janet Olivier, puppeteer; and Cherè Cohen of the Writers Guild of Acadiana.

Louisiana Heartbeats will be taping at Acadiana Open Channel Studio B by appointment every Wednesday at 2 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Guests will be interviewed and then be asked to perform or display their products. Bands are welcome. Landry said slots are filling fast. For more information, email praisemusicpro@peoplepc.com.