

Attaché alum produces documentary about show choir

By Sherry Lucas

Clinton native and freelance producer Melissa Pace Overholt found seeds of documentary inspiration at an Attaché alumni banquet back in January 2016. Two decades had passed since she sang and danced her way through show choir at Clinton High School, but the people rallying in Attaché support? That hadn't changed.

"I was looking out at the audience, and it was the same people, whether they had kids in it or not. And, the talent level! I hadn't seen Attaché in years, and I was blown away," says Overholt, who's lived in Manhattan Beach, California, for sixteen years.

Overholt worked at WTOK in Meridian and WLBT in Jackson in the late 1990s, then in Birmingham until 2002. She lives in California with her husband, Trent, son Jesse Merles, and daughters Mabry and Mary Walker.

Attaché became Overholt's first documentary, and it premiered at the nationally recognized Sidewalk Film Festival in Birmingham this past August. The event, she says, was incredible.

"They cheered at the end. That was one of those moments I will never forget."

Attaché was also recently accepted into the DOC LA Los Angeles Documentary Film Festival, and it will have its Los Angeles premiere October 20 at Charlie Chaplin Theater at Raleigh Studios, Overholt said.

She hopes to get *Attaché* into Mississippi film festivals early next year. "After seeing it in Birmingham, I feel like I'm ready to bring it to the people who made it possible."

She'd been surprised by the alumni banquet invitation.

"I hadn't been back to Clinton for many years, but it sounded like fun,



Special to The Clinton Courier

Melissa Pace Overholt

and it was my dad's 70th birthday." She'd been part of *Attaché* three years in high school, following her older sister's three-year stint, under previous director Winona Costello.

"There's even more support now, but those same people who were there twenty years ago, are still there. And so loyal." It got her thinking. How many places in high school, or the world even, do you have so many different types of students coming together and working so hard to achieve a goal?

"You've got the kid that might've gotten picked on all last year, to the star of the football team, to the band guys and the super-studious, to the shy kid — every part of the population was represented there. That's such a beautiful thing."

On the flight home, she read the newspaper and mulled the day's news of strife and turmoil.

"There was so much negativity coming out of the South at that point...I thought, this is not representative of everything that's going in the South,

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