

## **UA professor's film earns award**

"Service to Man," University of Alabama theatre professor Seth Panitch's first feature-length, earned the grand jury prize for best film Sunday at the 20th American Black Film Festival in Miami.

The film was one of 25 selected to be showcased at the festival, which is the largest of its kind in the country. The festival is dedicated to bringing awareness of entertainment content made by and about people of African descent to a worldwide audience, according to its website.

"Service to Man" was the only university-produced film in the festival. It was nominated for best screenplay, best direction and best film. It premiered alongside films such as comedian Kevin Hart's "Central Intelligence."

Panitch, who is head of UA's master of fine arts acting program in the department of theater and dance, said the film is loosely based on his father's experiences as one of the first white students at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., in 1968.