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Area couple capture 'WooTube' video award

By Lauren Falco SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE



Sturbridge songwriting duo Christine and Marcus Rap of American Dreamers pose with Charter TV3 "WooTube" co-host Dale LePage after winning the show's Video of the Year Award. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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WORCESTER — After a seven-year hiatus from the music business, Sturbridge songwriting duo Christine and Marcus Rap of American Dreamers were looking for a way of getting their voices back in the ears of listeners. The Raps found just the outlet they were looking for with Charter TV3's show "WooTube."

Each month on a new episode, "WooTube" offers local musicians and comedians the opportunity to submit videos for consideration for play on the show.



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“Anybody can submit,” said co-producer Danielle DeLucia. “We play a varied bunch of videos; we try to mix it up.”

Launched on Feb. 22, 2012, “WooTube” is an entertainment talk show that features musical performances, comedian videos and interviews with local club and restaurant owners, as well as updates on the latest events in Central New England.

The show airs Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday nights at 9:30 with co-hosts Dale LePage and Roberta Mandella. It reaches more than 180,000 households in Central New England on Charter TV3.

“We’d been tossing around a music show for a long time it just had never come to be,” said Ms. DeLucia. “At the same time Dale called us and he had pitched a talk show, and one of the other employees had an idea about maybe doing something with videos so we kind of melded the ideas together and came up with the concept.”

The WooTube production team reviews all videos submitted before the monthly deadline and notifies the owners of selected videos that they have been chosen as finalists.

Submissions for the April episode are open until 5 p.m. Feb. 22. “We are always looking for submissions,” said Ms. DeLucia.

Finalists are required to send a DVD copy of their video to the WooTube production team for use on the television show. Viewers are encouraged to vote on the WooTube Facebook page for their favorite video to win Video of the Month and become a contender for Video of the Year.

Most recently, WooTube brought success to Mr. and Mrs. Rap, who won the WooTube Video of the Year Award for the video of their original song “Precious Time.”

“Everything’s just such a blur,” said Mr. Rap about winning the contest.

The video features the Raps and musician Steven Sadler playing a lap steel guitar and flashes images of children and parents, showing the love between families. American Dreamers’ music is inspired by their real lives as regular people and their strong family values.

Mr. and Mrs. Rap had been developing music together since they met in 1995. Although they took a hiatus from 1998 until 2004 to start a family, they have been back in the business since 2005. “Precious Time” was created in 2011.

“Pretty much the song came very fast, within a couple days,” said Mrs. Rap. “Everyone kind of has a different response to it, everyone gets a different story.”

The Raps heard of the WooTube contest through Charter Programming director Michael Marcy, a contact of Mr. Rap.

“We always strive to write things that would be relatable to our friends and we take it from there,” said Mrs. Rap.

American Dreamers is working on an EP titled “The Dream,” which is due to release later this year.

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