

*Tampa Educational Cable Consortium
presents*

independents'



film festival

GET MOVIE MINDED

November 5th - 14th 2009

Greetings Friends of Independent Film!

Welcome to the 16th Annual Independents' Film Festival!

On behalf of the Tampa Educational Cable Consortium Board of Directors, The Education Channel staff and the Tampa Bay filmmaking community, I'm delighted to welcome you to this wonderful annual showcase of talent and creativity dedicated to the true spirit of independent filmmaking.

The Independents' Film Festival (IFF) encourages aspiring filmmakers to pursue their passion and hone their artistic skills by providing them an educated and appreciative audience. The IFF supports local, national, and international student and independent filmmakers by exposing their work on television, on the web and in theatrical screenings.

The 160 entries we received this year came from as far away as Russia and as close as downtown Tampa. We're particularly proud that 42% of this year's Official Selections are from the State of Florida. A panel of experts narrows the field through an intensive process, considering the entries according to strict guidelines of technical quality, artistic merit and creativity.

The Education Channel created and supports this event as part of its mission to invigorate the intellectual climate of community life and connect Tampa Bay residents with creative life long learning experiences. We hope the casual, intimate nature of these screenings allows you the opportunity to meet new friends and experience film in a new way.

We thank the filmmakers, the judges, the volunteers and our generous sponsors who all come together to make this event successful and enduring. And we thank you, dear audience, for seeking out this adventure. Together we create magic. I hope you enjoy this presentation of films and find it a real treat for your eyes and a feast for your imagination.

Lucy Griggs
Festival Director

Please join us in congratulating
The 2009 IFF Award Winning Films & Directors

Florida Choice Awards

Rhapsody Sarah Wilson

On the Road to Tel-Aviv Khen Shalem

Cinq Dan Bakst

The Tempo of Tampa Bay USF School of Mass Comm.

Trunk Sean Malone

Ghosts of Ybor: Charlie Wall Pete Guzzo

Back to the Wild... In Florida Tom Fitz

The Monster Under My Bed Todd Thompson

InGREEDients David Burton

Best Independent Mini Film

Relationship Card: Peter John Ross

Best Independent Short Film

This Man's Life: Todd Thompson

Best Independent Foreign Film

Io Parlo!: Marco Gianfreda

Best Independent Feature Film

Chaturanga: Suman Mukhopadhyay

Best Independent Animation

El Salon Mexico: Paul Glickman

Best Experimental Film

Inside every moment is
another moment:

Kacey Morrow

Best Student Documentary

Thirty Two: Janet Weinstein

Best Long Documentary

FRAG: Mike Pasley

Best Student Mini Film

The Wall: Michael Lloyd Green

Best Student Short Film

The State of Sunshine: Z. Eric Yang

Best Student Foreign Film

Releve: Sebastian Natto,
Denis V. Trumbach, Bastian Caspar

Best Student Feature Film

Little Lies: William Lee

Best Student Animation

Dim Sum: Jin Sop Kum

Best Independent Short Film

This Man's Life: Todd Thompson

Best Independent Short Documentary

Abandoned Heroes: David Y. Block

Best Feature Documentary

Quest for Honor: Mary Ann Bruni

Young Directors Award

Tragic Self-Improvement of Ross
Lawson: Jolie Hales



November 16, 2009

Suman Mukhopadhyay
3A/1, 3rd Flr Hastings Chambers
7C, Kiran Sankar Roy Rd
Kolkata-700 001 West Bengal
India

Dear Suman,

Congratulations on your award from the 2009 Independents' Film Festival. Enclosed is the award, some press about this year's festival and an event program.

We understand that making a film – especially a feature - requires talent, money, and countless hours of time. It's an accomplishment just to finish it; it's difficult to get it seen; and it's quite a feat to create a film that's worthy of an award. You should be very proud!

We look forward to seeing more of your work in future IFFs.

Warm regards,

Lucy Griggs
Festival Director

Enclosures: 2009 IFF Award Plaque
Tampa Tribune Article
Creative Loafing Article
Event Program

Declarations from Independents

Students highlight the IFF. Plus: Sarasota's Cine-World.

MOVIES

By Joe Bardi

I used to be that film festivals in the Tampa Bay area were a rarity. No longer. Totaling up all the fundraisers, workshops and side programming that go along with the ever-expanding number of festivals, it's clear that fest-hopping has become a year-round sport. And that's great, because we can all stand to broaden our horizons beyond the standard Hollywood pulp that fills the multiplex each Friday. In the next few weeks, there are two festivals of note: one with lots of local appeal, and one a bit farther south that attracts filmmakers (and filmgoers) from all over the world.

INDEPENDENTS' FILM FESTIVAL

Hosted by Tampa's The Education Channel, the 16th annual Independents' Film Festival promises an intimate look at locally produced films, including a strong program of student films out of USF. I say intimate because all screenings will be held at The Education Channel's beautiful, newly upgraded screening room with seating for about 65 people. Festival organizers also promise ample opportunity to hob-nob with filmmakers and other fest attendees, as each themed evening begins with a food and drink reception and ends with coffee and dessert. (All included in the \$15 ticket price.)

The festival kicks off with Nov. 5's "Gangsters and Groove" theme night, which highlights Florida-centric documentaries including *Ghosts of Ybor: Charlie Wall*, a look at the early days of organized crime in Tampa Bay produced by Tampa's Peter and Paul Guzzo, and *The Tempo of Tampa Bay*, a production of the USF School of Mass Communications that highlights the faces and places that comprise the blues and jazz tradition in the Bay area. Nov. 6 is "Emerging Directors" night, sponsored by the University of Tampa, and featuring films created by college and graduate students, many of whom will be in attendance.

I was able to screen two films from "Emerging Director" night, and both are winners. The first, *Cinq*, was created at USF by filmmaker Dan Baker and is a darkly beautiful look at addiction. Not a traditional story, *per se*, *Cinq* more than makes up for a lack of plot with some well-composed photography. The



DECLINED: A couple spars over their debts to each other in IFF's *Relationship Card*.

other film I caught, *Rhapsody* by USF filmmaker (and Campus MovieFest award-winner) Sarah Howard, is a colorful and energetic tale of a high school freshman who falls in love with a girl after he hits her in the head with a soccer ball. Set to Gershwin's "Rhapsody In Blue," the film's images match the soaring music and even include some cool lo-fi animation.

Other evenings include Nov. 7's "Junior Showcase," highlighting films by kids in grades K-12 and including a "Young Producers" panel discussion with some current college filmmakers; Nov. 11 is "Going to Extremes" night, featuring a movie called *Frag* about kids who dream of making it as professional video game players; Nov. 12 showcases "Art of Film" with films that promise to be visually arresting (*Radiance: the Experience of Light*) and special guests Dorothy Fadiman, an Emmy winner and Oscar nominee, and Todd Thompson, an award-winning filmmaker from Celebration, FL; and Nov. 13 is "Florida Short Film Focus," which lives up to its billing with eight short films and a chance to meet their creators.

Fadiman and Thompson stick around for morning workshops on Nov. 14, and the fest wraps up that evening with more screenings (don't miss *Relationship Card*, a very funny short about the battle of the sexes) and a Best of the Festival presentation and awards ceremony.

CINE-WORLD 2009

The Cine-World Film Festival, a presentation of the Sarasota Film Society, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. In contrast to IFF's lineup of locally produced Indies, Cine-World programs both domestic and international films, including entries from Spain, Israel, France, Germany, India, Sweden and Argentina, among others.

Meant to represent the best of world cinema many of the films carry the A-List talent to match. Leading the pack in this area is *Everybody's Fine* which stars Robert DeNiro in a remake of *Cinema Paradiso* director Giuseppe Tornatore's 1991 film *Stanno Tutti Bene*. Another big film for the fest is *Precious*, based on the 1996 Sapphire novel *Push*. The film, about an abused Harlem girl who enters a private school in search of a new lease on life, has buzz behind it and some big supporting turns from Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz.

Other highlights of Cine-World include *The Young Victoria* with Emily Blunt, *The Yes Men Save The World*, the latest documentary following hilarious corporate pranksters The Yes Men, an dogme-95 director Lone Scherfig's latest, *An Education*. No matter which film you choose, it's bound to be worthy of a short road trip down I-75

Festival Notes

INDEPENDENTS' FILM FESTIVAL

November 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 2009. \$15
All events held at The Education Channel, 703 N. Willow Ave., Tampa. Each themed screening night begins with a reception, complimentary food, drink and socializing before the films, followed by coffee and dessert.

2009 CINE-WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

Nov. 6-12. Screenings will be held primarily at Burns Court Cinemas in downtown Sarasota with special shows at Lakewood Ranch Cinemas. Red Passes, good for 20 admissions, are \$120 for members

and \$160 for non-members. Black passes, good for 10 admissions, are \$62.50 for members and \$87.50 for non-members. Single tickets are \$6.50 for members and \$9 for non-members. For more info and to purchase advance tickets, go to filmsociety.org/cine2009.cfm.

[metro]

Tampa's 16th indie film festival gets intimate

It will feature local, regional filmmakers.

By WALT BELCHER
wbelcher@tampatrib.com

TAMPA • Seeking an intimate experience for film buffs, Tampa's 16th annual Independents' Film Festival promises movies, thoughtful discussions and a party every night.

The festival, which runs Thursday through Nov. 14, showcases films produced by local, state and regional filmmakers as well as high school and college students.

The films range from documentaries, shorts, comedies and animations to the award-winning "Ghosts of Ybor: Charlie Wall," about Florida's first crime boss.

Events begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and Nov. 11 and 13. The Nov. 12 event begins at 5 p.m., and the festival finale on Nov. 14 begins at 7 p.m.

All events will be at The Education Channel offices and studio, 703 N. Willow Ave. Seating is limited to 50 people.

The festival includes educational seminars at 10 a.m. and noon Nov. 14. They will feature two successful independent filmmakers: "Producing With Passion: Making Films That Change the World" presented by Dorothy Fadiman; and "Telling Stories With Heart" presented by Todd Thompson.

"Our goal is to get the audience engaged in talking about the films so we are making it intimate and personal," said Ann Goldenberg, executive director of The Educational Channel, the nonprofit sponsor of the event.

"Each night will be themed and will begin with a reception with complimentary food and drink, and each screening will be followed by coffee and dessert.

comedy takes on the war on terrorism); and "Appliance Night Out" (when the lights go out, so do the washer and dryer).

Saturday: Junior Showcase; These dozen films are by mostly high school students, including Blake High senior Garrett Brown.

The films range from documentaries, shorts, comedies and animations to the award-winning "Ghosts of Ybor: Charlie Wall," about Florida's first crime boss.

Nov. 11: Going to Xtremes: The award-winning documentary "Frag" is a true story of profes-

sional video gaming and young cyberathletes who dream of stardom in gaming tournaments.

Nov. 12: Art of Film; Inspiring films that reveal the artistic vision of filmmakers and celebrating special guests Fadiman and Thompson, plus a selection of festival films.

Nov. 13: Florida Short Film Showcase; Acclaimed and award-winning films by some of Florida's best

filmmakers are featured in the showcase.

Nov. 14: Best of the Fest; A selection of award-winning films will be screened, followed by an awards ceremony and wrap party.

Reporter Walt Belcher can be reached at (813) 259-7654.

"The producers, directors and, in some cases, the actors, will be in attendance so we can get a dialogue going. People will get dinner and a movie and some socializing for only \$15."

Tickets for the festival are available online only at www.indiefilmfest.us.

The Education Channel, launched in 1987, is devoted to enhancing education and culture in Hillsborough County.

Carried on Bright House Networks Channel 614 and Verizon Fios Channel 32, the channel's programs include a mathematics homework hot line, coverage of Hillsborough County School Board meetings, a mini-medical school, instructional programs, classic films and children's educational programming. The Web site is www.educationchannel.org.

Films and themed nights include:

Thursday: Gangsters and Groove; Documentaries with a Florida focus include the award-winning "Ghosts of Ybor: Charlie Wall," screened with "The Tempo of Tampa Bay," which explores Tampa's rich tradition of jazz and blues and was produced by the University of South Florida School of Mass Communications. "Cadillac '59" is an amusing animated short that recalls a wild ride in a car with big fins.

Friday: Emerging Directors; Sponsored by the University of Tampa, these dozen short films and animations were created by college undergraduate and graduate students. Among them are: "Frank-N-Brains" (Frankenstein looking for the right girl); "Rhapsody" (a modern and colorful Romeo and Juliet story); "On the Road to Tel-Aviv" (a timely tale of fear and prejudice that exposes the emotional effects of war); "Tough Crowd" (stand-up