

WATERFRONT FILM FESTIVAL

8th ANNUAL * JUNE 8-11, 2006

www.waterfrontfilm.org

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More Oscar Contenders to be Viewed Again this Summer at Waterfront Film Festival

SAUGATUCK, Mich. – For four days, the Art Coast of Michigan will be immersed in films, independent filmmakers and thousands of fans when they converge on the Lake Michigan resort community of Saugatuck **June 8-11, 2006** for the eighth annual Waterfront Film Festival.

"We encourage mingling with the filmmakers and artists, and we structure our events to make this type of exchange easy and fun for everyone involved." Co-founder, Kori Eldean

Festival co-founder, Kori Eldean is more excited than ever about this year's festival. "We are proud to offer several Midwest premieres and provide West Michigan and lakeshore audiences their first or only chance to see some of the best films of the year on the big screen." Two of Waterfront's official selections from last summer's festival, *March of the Penguins* and *Murderball* received Oscar nods for best documentary features, she said, with the larger-than-life drama, *March of the Penguins*, taking home the coveted award.

Waterfront Film Festival organizers have proven to the industry that they have staying power. With seven years under their belt, the festival has become a popular choice for filmmakers because of its laid-back atmosphere. "While it is still important for our guests to speak with media and other industry representatives, our festival also offers a fun, relaxed atmosphere where filmmakers and film enthusiasts can mix. There's less pressure and that means more fun!" said Eldean. Submissions have been received from all over the country, and the field will be narrowed down to approximately 30 full-length films and 30 shorts.

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FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree - Dori DePree - Hopwood DePree - Kori Eldean - Judy Smith

The festival also offers seminars in filmmaking, acting, and screenwriting featuring panels of industry professionals from L.A. and New York. "Waterfront offers festival goers two things: great independent films they may otherwise not have a chance to see, and access to the people who are part of the creative filmmaking process." said Eldean. "We encourage mingling with the filmmakers and artists, and we structure our events to make this type of exchange easy and fun for everyone involved," she added.

Returning for a second year is Waterfront's screenwriting competition. The 2006 Waterfront Screenplay Competition is offered as a way to discover and promote new screenwriting talent in the four Lake Michigan "waterfront" states. "We decided that the festival should be a way for our local aspiring writers to connect with the industry at large." says Dina Marie Chapman, competition co-chair. The popularity of the festival's screenwriting panels, and the myriad questions about how to break into the business were the catalyst for the competition.

Preliminary judging is underway with over 100 submissions from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. Scripts have been submitted from graduates of the various university film and writing programs in the area as well as from in and around the Saugatuck area. This competition is made possible by a grant from the Community Fund of the Holland/Zeeland Area.

Now in its eighth year, the Waterfront Film Festival is a 100% volunteer-run, non-profit organization. Entertainment professionals from Los Angeles, New York, and Michigan created the festival in 1999 to provide a "middle coast" venue for independent filmmakers to show their work to sophisticated audiences in a relaxed festival atmosphere.

Saugatuck, located midway between Detroit and Chicago is considered one of the top 20 arts and crafts destinations in the U.S. This charming village known as the Art Coast of Michigan is nestled in the beautiful white sand dunes of Lake Michigan and curled around an inland bay. With its beautiful beaches, diverse shopping, eclectic cuisine and nightlife - all within easy access of festival venues - the area's relaxed atmosphere has charmed visitors for nearly a century. For more information, visit the official festival Website at www.waterfrontfilm.org.

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