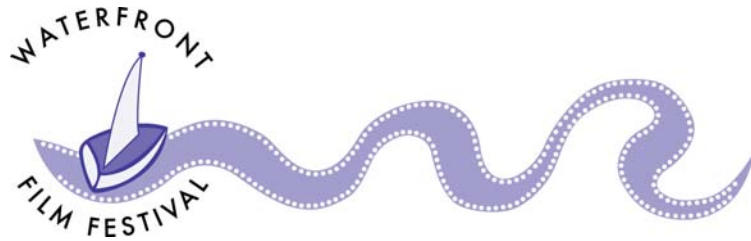


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## **Waterfront Film Festival Announces Academy Award® Winners in Attendance at Oscar Night® America Party**

*West Michigan Hosts a Gala Fundraiser on Feb. 22 Celebrating the 2009 Academy Awards*

**Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 11, 2009** – The Waterfront Film Festival will have two Academy Award winners in attendance at its glamorous Oscar Night America® party and fundraiser on Feb. 22 in conjunction with the 2009 Academy Awards:

- David E. Stone - who won an Academy Award for his work on *Bram Stoker's Dracula*
- Z Eric Yang - who won a Student Academy Award for his work on the independent film short *The State of Sunshine*

"It's going to be wonderful attending an Academy event again. Last summer, I was thrilled to be part of the Academy's evening program series about animation sound. Being around people who are involved with the Academy is always stimulating, and it's very exciting to see the film industry building so much new energy now in Michigan," Stone said.

One of this year's Academy Award nominees, *Man On Wire*, first premiered in the Midwest at the Waterfront Film Festival in Saugatuck.

The Verve Pipe's Brian Vander Ark is the event's honorary chair. Michigan political leaders at state and local levels, representatives of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council and filmmakers from TicTock Studios will also be in attendance at the West Michigan party.

WZZM TV13's Val Lego is confirmed as the event's emcee. WZZM TV13, a local ABC affiliate, will be airing the broadcast live.

WXMI FOX 17's Michele DeSelms will be hosting the red carpet.

Guest celebrities will also join the festivities. A sneak peak of one of the celebrity bartenders includes Kristin Minter who has appeared in *Nip/Tuck*, *CSI*, *ER* and appears in the upcoming film *Blur*. "The WFF has promoted filmmaking in Michigan for ten years.

So, it's exciting that they have been chosen to hold an Official Oscar Night® America Party. I'm excited to celebrate the Oscars at the Waterfront Film Festival Oscar Night® America Party in Grand Rapids and look forward to seeing everyone there," Minter said.

Waterfront's Oscar Night® America event is unique in that film festival volunteers are creating a fictional Hollywood movie set at the Urban Institute for the Contemporary Arts for this special Oscar® viewing party on the night of the annual awards ceremony.

The fundraiser, which begins with red carpet arrivals and a champagne welcome starting at 6:30 p.m., will include a theatre area, catering and a VIP lounge for guests to watch the 81st Annual Academy Awards. The telecast begins at 8 p.m. Eastern Time on ABC from the Kodak Theatre, Los Angeles.

### **A Taste of Michigan**

The Grand Rapids event will feature Pamella Roland gowns. West Michigan's own Pamella DeVos designs couture under the Pamella Roland brand, which has been seen on a number of Hollywood red carpets.

Another West Michigan mainstay, the Israels Family and Klingman's, is participating in this first-time-ever event. Klingman's Interior Designer Kat Moore is designing two luxurious spaces within the venue.

"We're creating an atmosphere that is hip and glamorous, bringing a part of Hollywood to Grand Rapids for this inaugural event," owner David Israels said.

Klingman's is designing and furnishing the VIP Green Room and special "Star of the Show"-sponsored seating level. The special areas will feature forefront designs as well as showcase Grand Rapids' very own Kindel Furniture. Kindel and the Oscars were brought together previously using the Dorothy Draper design pieces for the actual Green Room at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to be a part of this event as it helps promote the arts and culture of West Michigan," Israels said.

The overall venue is being designed by professional scene designer John Despres, owner of Scene-It-All Productions, based in Grand Rapids. Despres designed the sets for *The Steam Experiment*, which recently filmed in Grand Rapids and stars Val Kilmer.

Tickets for the event, which will be held at the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, 41 Sheldon Blvd SE in Grand Rapids, are \$125 per person and include fantastic food stations themed for nominated movies and an open bar. Tickets are now on sale at all three West Michigan Schuler Books & Music locations and online at [www.WaterfrontFilm.org](http://www.WaterfrontFilm.org). Please contact Tickets Chair Kristin Salerno with any questions at 616-340-1086 or [kristinsalerno@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinsalerno@yahoo.com). A portion of each ticket price

is tax-deductible.

Attire for the event is elegant, artistic, black-tie optional.

As part of this Official Oscar Night America Party, Official Academy Awards materials such as the ceremony program brochure and ballot will be available in limited quantities. The president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will offer a special taped welcome to guests. And, the Academy is providing several items for the auction which will be available only at Oscar Night America parties. Including signed posters from this and previous years, and signed copies of publications from the Academy: “80 Years of the Oscar” By Robert Osborne and “Douglas Fairbanks” by Jeffrey Vance. Sponsors will also be presented with Official Oscar Night America Certificates of Appreciation.

The Waterfront Film Festival continues to seek sponsors for the event. Cash donations as well as in-kind donations are sought. Interested businesses and organizations should contact Cindy Johnson at 616-450-2462 or [cjevents@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cjevents@sbcglobal.net).

Earlier this year, the Waterfront Film Festival was selected by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as one of the 52 official venues for Oscar Night® America. Grand Rapids joins Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee, as Midwest venues, for the Oscar Night America parties in 2009. Only one non-profit event per media market can be selected to host a viewing party and fundraiser. Last year, 51 cities raised more than \$3.3 million for charity through ONA parties.

The Waterfront Film Festival hosted 14,000 independent-film fans at its 2008 festival and has an estimated economic impact to the region of \$1.3 million in tourism dollars over a four-day weekend every June.

For more information on the film festival, visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org) . For more information on Oscar Night America, visit [www.oscars.org/ona](http://www.oscars.org/ona).

### **About Waterfront Film Festival**

Now in its 11th year, the Waterfront Film Festival celebrates independent film and filmmakers in a non-competitive environment. Located in Saugatuck, Mich., WFF is one of the leading destination film festivals in the Midwest, regularly hosting Midwest premieres of Academy Award-winning and -nominated documentaries. It has been recognized as one of the top five film festivals by SAG Indie. WFF is committed to education and features seminars designed to encourage the next generation of actors, writers and directors. For more information on the 2009 festival, which is scheduled June 11-14, visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org).