



JUNE 10-13, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2004

MEDIA CONTACT

Melanie Scholten
616-394-0000 (day)
media@waterfrontfilm.org

FESTIVAL INFO

269-857-8351
www.waterfrontfilm.org

Waterfront Film Festival Announces Seminar Schedule

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – The Waterfront Film Festival is more than just great films and fabulous parties...it's also about great conversations. This year we are introducing the festival's newest centerpiece – **THE WATERFRONT LODGE: SPONSORED BY SAG INDIE**. A casual lounge and café designed as a gathering place to grab drinks, catch the daily news, and enjoy special events in the intimate charm of the historic Saugatuck American Legion Hall. The Lodge is also the new home of our popular **SEMINAR SERIES**, presenting lively discussions and receptions daily.

DOC FEVER – THE POPULAR EXPLOSION OF REALITY-FILM

Friday June 11 @ 2:30 PM / Waterfront Lodge

What motivates documentary filmmakers to dedicate years of their lives to a project? Where do they find their subjects? How do they get people to agree to be in them? How do docs find funding for their films and distribute their often very personal stories? Join documentary filmmakers as they discuss their drive for docs and the journeys they take to bring them to you.

- Paul Kermizian, director “American Beer”
- Mark Brian Smith, director “Overnight”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival
- Tony Montana, producer “Overnight”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival
- Wilhelmus Bryan, producer “A League of Ordinary Gentlemen”, Audience Award Winner SXSW Film Festival
- Christopher Browne, director “A League of Ordinary Gentlemen”, Audience Award Winner SXSW Film Festival
- Chris Smith, director “American Movie,” Grand Jury Prize Winner Sundance 1999, at the fest with “The Yes Men”, being released theatrically later this year.

Moderated by Anna Proulx -- Senior Coordinator, Sundance Documentary Film Program

- more -

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

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

GARAGE STUDIOS -- THE FRONTIER OF TRULY INDEPENDENT FILM

Saturday June 12 @ 11:00 AM / Waterfront Lodge

Most artists used to be able to only dream of having the tools to make films. Now that affordable equipment has taken the process out of the studio and into the garage, how has the plan to make films changed? What is the path like for someone who does it on their own working almost solo? Find out from some of the most truly independent filmmakers out there – not only have some of them found distribution this year for their projects, but would it surprise you to know some of them did it without going digital?

- Shane Carruth, writer/director/producer “Primer”, Grand Jury Prize Winner 2004 Sundance Film Festival, Alfred Sloan Prize Winner
- Ryan Eslinger, writer/director/producer “Madness & Genius”, IFP Spirit Awards Nominee “Someone to Watch” Award, Alfred Sloan Prize Winner Hamptons Film Festival
- Christian Johnston, writer/director/producer “September Tapes”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival
- Chris Kentis, writer/director/producer “Open Water”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival, to be released on 2000 screens later this year
- Matthew Bonifacio, writer/director/producer “LBS.”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival
- Darrien Gipson, SAG INDIE representative

Moderated by Joseph Beyer, Senior Programming Coordinator, Sundance Film Festival

FROM FIRST DRAFT TO FINAL CUT -- AND BEYOND

THE ROBERT HAWK SEMINAR

Saturday June 12 @ 1:30 PM / Waterfront Lodge

Working with clients from script development to festival strategies, independent film consultant and producer Robert Hawk (*Trick, Slaughter Rule*) has been guardian angel to numerous first-time directors, as well as seasoned veterans. His advice has proven invaluable to such now recognized filmmakers as Kevin Smith (*Chasing Amy, Jersey Girl*), Ed Burns (*Brothers McMullen*), David Siegel & Scott McGehee (*Deep End*), Nathaniel Kahn (*My Architect*) and Rob Epstein (*Times of Harvey Milk, Common Threads*). Learn how to navigate through all stages of a film's life -- plus get a reality check on today's indie world. For more, visit www.filmhawk.com

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -- ACTORS IN INDIE WONDERLAND

Saturday June 12 @ 3:30 PM / Waterfront Lodge

With so many actors turning into writers and producers in an effort to create work for themselves, how has the path of an acting career changed in the face of the indie boom and the digital explosion? Is a role created for yourself twice as sweet as one you get cast in? What about working on a studio movie? Join this amazing line-up of professional actors as they discuss their roles and experiences.

- Daniel Travis, star of “Open Water”, being released later this summer by LionsGate Films
- Christine Elise, writer and actress, has starred in “E.R.” and “Beverly Hills: 90210” among others
- James Karen, distinguished film, television and stage actor of fifty years
- Jason Biggs, actor, “American Pie” Trilogy, “Jersey Girl”, “Prozac Nation”
- Kal Penn, actor “Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle”, “Van Wilder”
- Carmine Famiglietti, writer/actor/producer “LBS.”, 2004 Sundance Film Festival

Moderated by actor/writer/director and Festival Co-Founder Hopwood DePree

- more -

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

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

SHORT-CIRCUIT

Sunday June 13 @ 11:00 AM / Waterfront Lodge

Big movies don't get ALL the attention, do they? At Waterfront, they don't. Now you can join some of the amazing short filmmakers in a candid and educational conversation on their work, their methods and their inspirations. Learn what it takes to make a story that captivates an audience in just minutes. From concept to production to distribution outlets, this panel promises to cover all the bases on petite cinema .

- Dana Brunetti & Ross Partridge, Producers of Kevin Spacey's Triggerstreet.com
- Vicki Jensen, Co-Director of the animated smash hit "Shrek" and the short "Family Tree"
- Eric Champnella, screenwriter of the upcoming Bernie Mac movie "Mr. 3000" and director of the short "The Old Man and the Studio"
- Glory Simon, Programmer, Waterfront Film Festival
- Rob Meltzer, director of the short "I Am Stamos", television writer/director
- David Fuller, director of the Fox Searchlab short "The Ticket", starring Scott Bakula
- Andrew Will, director of the short "American Made"

Moderated by independent film guru Robert Hawk

PITCH THEM WITH YOUR BEST SHOT

Sunday June 13 @ 1:00 PM / Waterfront Lodge

Have you ever thought you had a great idea for a movie? Ever wonder what it would be like to have just a few minutes of face time with some of the movers and shakers in Hollywood? Well here's your chance to get some advice from working professionals in creative development. They'll give you their takes on finding material, shaping it for funding and finally how to make that sale. Don't miss this unique opportunity to get the inside tip on what really gets movies made.

- Jay Froberg, Co-Founder ROAR Entertainment, former VP of MGM
- Craig Kestel, talent agent at William Morris Agency's Independent division
- Swanna MacNair, Creative Executive, New Line Cinema
- Brian Dannelly, writer/director "Saved!", 2004 Sundance Film Festival
- Roger Avary, Oscar winning screenwriter "Pulp Fiction", "Killing Zoe," "Rules of Attraction"
- Adam Herz, screenwriter "American Pie" Trilogy
- Sandy Stern, producer "Saved!", "Being John Malkovich", "Pump Up The Volume"

Moderated by Jon Fitzgerald, Co-Founder Slamdance Film Fest, Former Director, AFI Film Festival

###

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

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