

**FOR RELEASE**

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Waterfront Film Festival Fact Sheet 2003

Festival

Slogan: *Celebrating the Art of the Independent Film.*

Founders: Siblings Dana DePree, Dori DePree, and Hopwood DePree; Kori Eldean; Judy Smith.

Founded In: 1999.

Why: The founders, with help from L.A. and New York entertainment professionals, created the Waterfront Film Festival to provide a "middle coast" venue for independent filmmakers eager to show their work to sophisticated audiences. The festival is not judged or adjudicated but rather an opportunity for filmmakers to informally connect with their audiences.

2003 Festival: June 12-15; the fifth annual event; over 7,000 people are expected to attend. Major sponsors: Fox 17 WXMI, Kodak, FilmThreat.com, MGM, William Morris Agency, Perrigo. The festival kicks off Thursday night at 7pm with a street party (including cash bar and live music) and free outdoor screening on Water Street in downtown Saugatuck. (The audience is encouraged to bring chairs or blanket.) Screenings take place all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and several seminars will be offered each of those days.

Festival

Location: Various venues in Saugatuck, Michigan: Saugatuck Yacht Services, American Legion Hall, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Saugatuck High School.

Number of

Films: The 2003 festival drew over 500 submissions from independent filmmakers nationwide. Approximately 60 feature-length, short and student films will be shown throughout the weekend.

Educational

Events: Seminars in filmmaking and film marketing, acting, and screenwriting are offered during the four-day event.

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

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

Admission

Prices: 2003 prices are \$7 per film before 5 pm (\$10 after 5 pm) and \$7 per seminar.
Day passes are \$55, Super passes are \$150, Fast passes are \$250.

How to Purchase

Tickets: By telephone at 269-837-8351
Over the internet at www.waterfrontfilm.com
In person at 347 Water Street (any remaining tickets for a particular screening will be available at the venue beginning one half-hour before that screening.)

Official

Website: www.waterfrontfilm.com

**What Is
Independent
Film?**

There have been many “one-word” definitions: edgy, experimental, underground, offbeat, avant-garde. And, in recent years, the line separating “independent film” from “studio movie” has become blurred. Motion pictures such as *American Beauty* and *Moulin Rouge* have that edgy, indie feel – yet they’re studio productions.

Independent Film Consultant Robert Hawk says there remains one litmus test for *independence*: “Simply, it must be a film in which a producer allows a director to fully realize his or her vision.”

**Advisory
Board:**

Leanna Creel, Filmmaker; Patrick Sheane Duncan, Screenwriter; Sean Elliott, Talent Agent, Endeavor Agency; Jennie Frankel, Vice President of Literary for Zide/Perry Entertainment; Jay Froberg, President, ROAR Pictures, and Entertainment Lawyer; Chris Gore, Film Critic, also Creator/Editor of Film Threat; Lynda Hansen, Independent Film Producer and Consultant, also the American Representative for the Berlin Film Festival; Todd Hanson, Programmer, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival; Robert Hawk, Independent Film Producer and Consultant, also member of the Advisory Selection Committee for the Sundance Film Festival; Adam Herz, Screenwriter; Janet Lockwood, Head, Michigan Film Commission; Dan Mirvish, Filmmaker and Founder of Slamdance Film Festival; Andrew Ruf, Talent Agent, Paradigm Talent Agency; Mary Jane Skalski, Producer; John Sloss, Leading Entertainment Lawyer, Sloss Law Office P.C.; Jackie Tepper, Manager, Acquisitions & Co-Productions, New Line Cinema; Warren Zide, President, Zide/Perry Entertainment

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