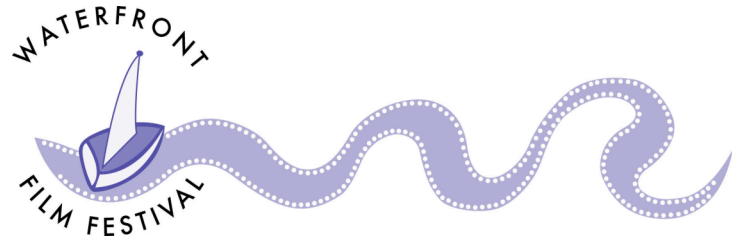


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## **Waterfront Film Festival to screen long list of premieres** *Four-day lineup includes mixers, seminars and workshops*

**Saugatuck, Michigan, June 3, 2011** – The screening lineup for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfront Film Festival now available at [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org) includes two world premieres, two U.S. premieres, 36 Midwest premieres, 21 Michigan premieres and several Sundance favorites.

Included in the long list of amazing films screening June 9-12 is the Student Academy Award winner “THIEF”, the haunting story of Mehdi, an Iraqi boy who befriends the young Saddam Hussein in 1959. Forty years later the two come face to face a second time and Mehdi must weigh his desire for revenge against his need to make peace with the past.

More than 16,000 people are expected to congregate in Saugatuck, Michigan for the four-day event to watch their choice selections among the more than 80 dramas, comedies, documentaries and film shorts. Among the many visitors to will be a record-number of actors, directors, writers and producers.

### **No-Waiting-In-Line passes selling quickly!**

For exclusive access to film and music throughout the weekend, a series of “no waiting in line” passes can be purchased now at [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org). Individual film tickets also are on sale for \$10. Advanced ticket purchase is highly recommended for all films and Opening Night Celebration as venues often sell out prior to start times. Tickets can be purchased online and printed at home.

In addition to the array of films, Waterfront Film Festival offers a professionally-led screenwriting workshop, a pair of networking events that cover how to break into the business, and profile the life of an actor in film, on a TV drama or in a reality show.

The festival kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday June 9 with the Opening Night Celebration in a new larger venue at Saugatuck's Coghlin Park near the intersection of Culver and Griffith streets. Admission is \$10, and all proceeds go to benefit the non-profit organization. Live music features Grammy-winning international hip-hop/reggae artist Shaggy. When the sun goes down the film projector starts up for an outdoor showing of some of the year's funniest comedic short films. Food and drinks, including a wide selection of drafts from the beer garden, will be available for purchase.

Waterfront Film Festival has been named by Screen Actors Guild magazine SAGIndie as one of the top 5 film festivals in the world, along side Sundance and Cannes. Held in a scenic lakefront resort town, the festival has premiered a long list of award-winning films and is held in high regard for its unique venues, its leisurely walkability and its casual approach to screening, teaching and promoting the art of filmmaking.

***About Waterfront Film Festival***

Now in its thirteenth 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 in the United States. For more information on the 2011 festival, visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org).

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