



VANCOUVER  
**SHORT**  
FILM FESTIVAL

**For Immediate Release**  
Tuesday, October 6, 2009

## **Shorts festival not the short end of the stick**

### *1st Vancouver Short Film Festival Highlights BC's Best Short Films*

**Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada** – The first annual Vancouver Short Film Festival on October 23-24 ends this month's film frenzy with a big bang: 32 shorts and an industry panel. This is the first year the former student festival will showcase professional-level and international shorts.

*"We are proud to be showing some of the world's best shorts at our festival this year,"* says Festival Director **Sandra Garcia**. *"With 139 local entries and 21 international award-winning shorts to choose from, this has been the most challenging year of narrowing down the best of the best shorts of 2008 and 2009."*

Highlighted shorts include an animated short about bloggers in Iran (*Iran: A Nation of Bloggers*), a dystopic film shot in one take in reverse (*Latte America*), and a documentary on the Canadian Paralympic Boccia team (*Let's Play Boccia!*). International shorts hail from Cannes, Tribeca, Palm Springs, Sundance, London, Yorkton, Ffresh, the Genies, and the Oscars. The festival closes with the multi-award winning BC film *Centigrade*: the only short film to break the iTunes Top 10 downloads in the US, UK, and Canada, and the only Canadian short film to be developed into both a TV series and feature film.

Garcia continues: *"We are especially happy to close the festival with **Centigrade**, which proves that great success stories can come out of shorts shot right in our own backyard."*

#### Festival Schedule:

Friday, October 23, 8:00 PM: **Student Shorts**

Saturday, October 24:

- 3:00 PM – **"Making Short Films in Vancouver: The Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Potential"**  
Industry panel features *The Cabin Movie* screenwriter **Kris Elgstrand**, diverse media artist **Ann Marie Fleming**, and Crazy8s founder **Andrew Williamson**. The panel will be moderated by writer/director and *The Shorts Report* blogger **Kellie Ann Benz**.
- 5:00 PM – **World's Best Shorts**, featuring award-winning shorts from around the world.
- 7:30 PM – **Pro Shorts**
- 9:00 PM – VSFF after party and awards ceremony in the Vancity Theatre Atrium. Admission is free with ticket or pass purchase.

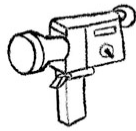
Over \$19,000 in prizes will be decided by an industry panel and awarded at the festival after party. 2009 sponsors include CityTV, Vancouver 24 Hours, and William F. White International.

The original Vancouver Student Film Festival was conceived in 2005 by several students and graduates who felt a need to showcase the best post-secondary films from across BC. The festival screened 58 films in three years, and is now led by an industry-level Board of Directors. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.VSFF.com](http://www.VSFF.com).

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## 2009 FESTIVAL FACT SHEET

- What:** 1<sup>st</sup> annual Vancouver Short Film Festival (4<sup>th</sup> year of production since inaugural *Vancouver Student Film Festival* in 2005)
- Mandate:** To promote the vibrant community of short film, video and new media artists in BC and to foster relationships between emerging and established short filmmakers.
- Where:** VIFC Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street (at Davie)
- When:** Friday-Saturday, October 23-24, 2009  
Friday, 8:00 PM - Student Shorts  
Saturday:
  - 3:00 PM – Shorts Panel
  - 5:00 PM – World’s Best Shorts
  - 7:30 PM – Pro Shorts
  - 9:00 PM – After party (in the theatre atrium)
- Tickets/passes:** In advance at [www.VSFF.com](http://www.VSFF.com) or at the door, if available
- Total # of films:** 32 (12 student, 10 professional, 10 international)
- Total # of schools featured:** 9
- Total # of local entries received:** 139
- Awards (over \$19,000 value):**
- WILLIAM F. WHITE AWARD FOR BEST PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - WILLIAM F. WHITE AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - DIRECTOR’S GUILD OF CANADA BC AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST DIRECTOR AWARD IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - PS VANCOUVER BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY PRIZE IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - PS VANCOUVER BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY PRIZE IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST SCREENPLAY AWARD IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST SCREENPLAY AWARD IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - MACINHOME AWARD FOR BEST EDITING IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - MVCC AWARD FOR BEST EDITING IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - THE AUDIO COALITION AWARD FOR BEST AUDIO DESIGN IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - STORYBUBBLE PICTURES AWARD FOR BEST SOUND IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - CITY OF BURNABY AWARD FOR BEST USE OF LOCATION IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST ACTOR AWARD IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST ACTRESS AWARD IN A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST ACTOR AWARD IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - VSFF BEST ACTRESS AWARD IN A STUDENT SHORT FILM
  - VSFF AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD FOR A PROFESSIONAL SHORT FILM
  - COLUMBIA ACADEMY AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD FOR A STUDENT SHORT FILM

**For more information:** [www.VSFF.com](http://www.VSFF.com)



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## 2009 PROGRAM

### **Friday, October 23, 8:00 PM: Student Shorts**

*Tucker* – Dir. Zia Marashi, Capilano University

*Papercut* – Dir. Pedro Eboli, Vancouver Film School

*Max* – Dir. Jeffrey Zablony

*Surviving in the Cracks* - Dir. Greg Masuda, Langara College

*Iran: A Nation of Bloggers* – Dirs. Aaron Chiesa, Toru Kageyama, Hendry Sukarya, Lisa Temes, VFS

*Latte America* – Dir. Jesse Clark, British Columbia Institute of Technology

*Missing Alice* – Dir. Rick Skyler, VFS (2009 National Student Film Festival Best Picture)

*Descendant* – Dir. Gozde Sukmenyildiz, International Language School of Canada

*Nature on its Course* – Dir. Su-An Ng, Emily Carr University

*Perfect Wave* – Dir. Jack Jutson, Simon Fraser University

*The Escape of Conrad Lard-Bottom* – Dir. Shaun McKinlay, University of British Columbia

*Not Another Damn Musical!* – Dir. Chris Goldade, Art Institute of Vancouver (2009 Crazy 8s film)

### **Saturday, October 24, 5:00 PM: World's Best Shorts**

*Next Floor* – Canada (2009 Genie Award for Best Live Action Short Drama, 2008 Cannes International Critics' Week Best Short Film)

*Subject #164* – UK (2009 Ffresh Student Moving Images Festival Awards Animation Nominee)

*Small Change* – Australia (2009 Tribeca Student Visionary winner)

*Lies* – Sweden (2009 Sundance Film Festival International Jury Prize)

*Jerrycan* – Australia (2009 Sundance Film Festival Honourable Mention, 2008 Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize)

*About Face* – Canada (2009 Yorkton Film Festival Golden Sheaf Award)

*Atem* – UK (2009 Ffresh Student Moving Images Festival Best Animation)

*Megatron* – Romania (2008 Cannes Palme d'Or)

*This Way Up!* – UK (2009 Oscar nominee for Animated Short Film & 2008 Ottawa Animation Festival National Film Board of Canada Public Prize)

*September* – UK (2009 London Short Film Festival Best Film, 2009 BAFTA Best Short Film)

### **7:30PM: Pro Shorts**

*Pier Pressure* – Dir. Darren Borrowman

*State of Yo* – Dir. Jason Karman (2009 Cine-Asie's National Portrait Contest National Award winner, 2008 Vancouver Asian Film Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Canadian Short Film Award winner)

*God Squad* – Dir. Louvens Remy, Aaron Rivando

*Postcards* – Dir. Dylan Couper

*Let's Play Boccia!* – Dir. Angelina Cantada

*Tofu Meets Greens* – Dir. Devon Cooke

*Kodiak* – Dir. Andrew MacLeod (2008 Leo Award for Best Edit of a Short Drama)

*For the Birds* – Dir. Malcolm Johnston

*The Light of Family Burnam* – Dir. Marshall Axani

*Centigrade* – Dir. Colin Cunningham (Six time 2008 Leo Award winner and fastest Live Action Short to break iTunes Top 10 downloads)