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2008 VANCOUVER STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL IS ACCEPTING ENTRIES NOW!

The Vancouver Student Film Festival Executive Board would like to wish you a great new year. For students going into their final term of film production, good luck on the completion of your films and videos!

We are excited to announce that we are now accepting entries for our 2008 festival occurring on **Saturday, May 24, 2008** at the Vancity Theatre. Entry fees are only **\$10** until **Saturday, March 1st** and **\$20** until **Saturday, April 19**. For entry guidelines, forms, and more info, please visit www.vsff.com.

If you are a company looking to get exposure in the post-secondary film community, please e-mail sponsor@vsff.com to request a sponsorship package.

We are also looking for volunteers for the festival and individuals to help us out with poster and card distribution until April 19. Please visit our **Apply** page for details.

We also have a **Facebook** Group! Please search for us on Facebook.com and we will keep you in touch with updates as the festival approaches! We look forward to receiving your submissions and hearing from you.

Sandra Garcia
2008 VSFF Director

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

VFS named one of world's top five animation schools

Vancouver Film School (VFS) placed fifth in 3D World Magazine's global ranking of post-secondary animation schools, and is the only school with a one-year program to finish in the top five.

Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Ontario ranked 10th, and was the only other Canadian institution to make the 20-school list. The United States had six schools on the list, the United Kingdom and France had five each, Canada had two and Germany and Australia had one each.

VFS's channel on YouTube has 12,000 subscribers and has received more than 7.5 million hits. Leading the way is *Happy*, a short film by digital character-animation program student Michael Lewicki, which passed one million hits last week, totaling more than 250,000 hits a week.

Source: Marke Andrews, Vancouver Sun, November 20, 2007



"THIS CONVERSATION" Talk show on NOVUS TV; next show on February 20

Limited Talent premiered the live talk show "**This Conversation**" (hosted by **Brendan Beiser** and produced by Paul Armstrong) on Novus TV on February 4th.

The next show will be taped at **The Other Space** (above Media Club, W. Georgia & Hamilton St.) on Wednesday, February 20th at **7:30pm**. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Cost is minimum **\$7** donation. Bar, limited menu, and street parking available.

While conventional talk shows focus on newsmakers or celebrities promoting their latest movie, book, or album, "This Conversation" seeks out people who are normally on the sidelines and puts them centre-stage to hear their stories. Each conversation makes a difference. Come be a part of the live audience and hear their tales.

Call 604 734-8339 or e-mail paularmstrong@telus.net for more info.

Novus TV is a Vancouver cable television broadcaster that plays in approximately 1,800 condominiums in Yaletown, Coal Harbour and soon Burnaby to a total potential audience in the tens of thousands.

For more info, visit www.novusnow.ca.



GIFTS News

The WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/GIFTSFILMS channel has all 2007 films, GIFTS classics plus some excellent workshops: acting, distribution, and sound track (by Randy Bachmann). The site has had more than half a million visits.

They also have a page on www.facebook.com where GIFTEES can hang out.

Reels on Wheels, the famous film school bus - carrying the school's director, some keen alumni and awesome GIFTS movies - will be touring B.C. and Washington State during the month of **April**. They can come to your school, community center or home and put on a show! Contact gifts@giftsfilms.com.

GIFTS announces their two-week **Producers' Intensive Media Camp, May 19-30, 2008**.

The program condenses the one-month long IMPP curriculum into an intense but never dull filmmaking experience on beautiful Galiano Island. Students choose Drama or Documentary as a production focus. More info at 1-800-813-9993 or www.GiftsFilms.com.

Extreme Video Production returns this year with a BIG event. Select **skate, BMX or mountain bike** riders are being invited to Galiano Island on **July 23, 24 and 25** to have professional quality videos shot and edited by GIFTS students. If you want to be one of our first grads from this kickin' program, contact them soon. Only 8 spots available.

2008 Programs:

Aboriginal Media Intensive Program:	March 23-29
Producers' Intensive Media Camp:	May 19-30
Extreme Video Production:	July 23-25
One-week adult/youth film course:	Aug. 24-30
Independent Media Producer Program (IMPP):	Sept. 21-Oct. 16, Super 8 film
Aboriginal Media Intensive Program:	Oct. 26-Nov. 1

EVENTS



CELLULOID SOCIAL CLUB Valentine's Day Eve Show Wednesday, February 13

The Anza Club, 3 W. 8th Avenue & Ontario, Vancouver
Doors open at **7:30pm**, show at **8pm**, admission **\$5.00**.
No minors, prizes galore.

Celluloid Social Club is hosted by **Brendan Beiser** and produced by **Paul Armstrong**, presented in Association with **FTX West**. More info at www.celluloidsocialclub.com and 604 734 8339.

Join the Facebook Celluloid Social Club Group at: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18306091376.

5 Minutes to Change Your World

Vancouver's first 7-day documentary filmmaking challenge

From **Sat. Feb 23** to **Friday, Feb. 29**, teams of documentary filmmakers will shoot and edit a 5-10 minute documentary film on an assigned topic. Films must show the impact of the topic on the filmmaker's community, and explore a possible solution. Vancouver actor/producer **Rob McConachie** is the contest organizer along with actor **Jan Bos** and new media consultant **Chris Hooper** of Trifectamedia.

On February 23, 1-2 people from each team will receive their assigned topic and have seven days to research, shoot, and edit their documentary. Teams turn in their completed films at 9pm sharp on Friday, Feb. 29. A panel of judges will review the submissions, and the films will be screened at a wrap party on **March 8 or 9**. Cash prizes are \$1000 for 1st, \$750 for 2nd, \$500 for 3rd, and individual prizes are awarded for best in topic.

To register: www.5mindocs.com. More info at info@5mindocs.com.

Out On Screen Movie Marathon!

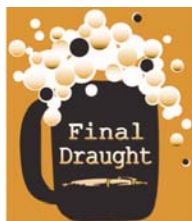


Out On Screen is looking for volunteers to collect pledges much like a "walk-a-thon" and then sit back and watch films at **1181** from **9am - 9pm** on **Sunday, Feb 24th** (1181 is located at **1181 Davie Street** in the heart of the gay village).

Their goal is to raise \$4,000 for their **Projection 20** initiative. Each dollar raised will be matched by a corporate donation (to a maximum \$2,000.00) from Business Objects Corp through their Community Action Funds.

Email will@outonscreen.com to sign up and get your pledge form. www.outonscreen.com

Source: Out On Screen



The Final Draught Script Reading Series occurs every **Monday** night from **February** to **March** in 2008.

Location: **Other Space** (Formerly the Restaurant at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre), corner of **W. Georgia and Cambie** above the Media Club in Vancouver, BC.

DOORS OPEN at **6:30 pm**, CASTING starts at **7:10 pm** and READINGS start at **8:00 pm**.

The series provides writers at every level of experience an opportunity to hear their plays, screenplays, and other written work come alive at the hands of Vancouver's finest pool of actors. Cheap drinks, good food and an esteemed panel critiques.

Join the Final Draught Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6638416973>.

SUBMIT your script, screenplay, or pilot for shorts, features, one-act stage plays, full-length stage plays, radio plays, and animation or TV.

See www.finaldraught.com/guides_for_writers, or submit your script to submissions@finaldraught.com (Final Draft Format or PDF please.) www.finaldraught.com

Cars and Films: Copyright and the Internet

By Devon Cooke

Cars are different from films in one important respect. A car is valuable because of certain physical attributes it possesses — the ability to drive it. A film's value is on a different level; it is valuable because of the idea or beauty it expresses. Ideas are fundamentally different from physical things, because they can be given away (or sold) without the original owner losing possession of them. Indeed, ideas are pretty useless things unless they are expressed, which is why artists tend to be obsessed with showing other people their ideas. As filmmakers, we must try to sell films for a living, but we *make* films because we feel we have something worth sharing.

Ideas — good ideas — have a habit of spreading like wildfire because it's in our nature as humans to share the things that have meaning to us — be they abstract ideas, pop tunes, or moving films. The widespread trading of films on peer-to-peer networks (eg. Limewire) is an expression of this phenomenon, of our desire to share beauty with others. This makes it much more complicated than black and white piracy. Telling people they can't share films online is tantamount to telling them they can't take part in culture.

You wouldn't think twice about whistling a copyrighted tune to yourself on the street (or singing the very-much-still-under-copyright Happy Birthday song at a party), but these are unquestionably examples of creative works being reproduced without permission. By the same token, we don't object when someone who purchased one of our films watches it with his or her friends — even though these friends didn't purchase the right to view it. That right is understood to come with the film it was purchased.

What I'm trying to get across is that, once you've made your work public, it's available to anyone and everyone. If that's not cool with you, don't let anyone see your work. As every producer in Hollywood knows, once a movie is made public, it can never be made private again. You can't unrelease a movie leaked on the Internet.

Now, back to the car analogy. The car and the film do bear one thing in common: Both can be measured in the value of money they produce for their creators. And, unlike ideas, money doesn't spread like wildfire. Unless you're a talented fraud artist, you don't get to keep the money you give others, so it's important to make sure that others aren't taking the money generated by your films. You need to make sure that the money you receive is equal to the value of the ideas expressed in the film. This is the purpose of copyright: It's a way to make sure that the right people are being paid for the right ideas.

As it stands, there are two problems with this system. One is that the connection between an idea and its monetary value is very, very tenuous. In some cases, an idea's value is proportional to the number of people who have heard about it and are willing to share it. Pop culture is based on this kind of idea — the more popular a pop song is, the more cash it generates. On the other hand, some ideas are valued inversely to their popularity — state secrets, for example. Even stranger, some ideas can be both, depending on who is collecting the cash; a state secret generates millions of newspaper sales when it is leaked to the press.

Another issue is how to deal with ideas that evolve or get reused in derivative works. Mickey Mouse is a ubiquitous cultural symbol — but don't try to incorporate him into your film unless you intend to pay Disney a hefty license fee. Yes, there is some sense in which Disney deserves money for creating such a powerful cultural idea, but the idea of disallowing artists from using Mickey Mouse without paying for it is abhorrent to me because it essentially says that only those who can afford it (i.e. not most artists) are allowed to comment on this aspect of culture. This is a case where increasing the cash value of an idea decreases its value as an idea in itself because the idea cannot be put to use.

The other problem with the copyright system is the Internet. The Internet is essentially a way to spread ideas. It allows the human sharing instinct a wider range and a fuller development than anything else in human history. Unfortunately, while the number of ideas that are accessible to us has increased in magnitude, the amount of cash being paid for ideas has not changed at the same pace. The economic equation is simple: Supply has skyrocketed, but demand (as measured in dollars, not desire) has stayed the same. The result: the cash value of every type of idea that can be shared on the Internet is plummeting, and every industry that relies on these ideas is struggling to adapt, from newspapers, to Hollywood, to filmmakers such as yourself.

Unfortunately, copyright can only make sure that money is directed into the right hands. It can't account for economics or direct money that doesn't exist. The real reason the creative industries are struggling is excess competition — from each other and within each industry — not piracy. Piracy is an expression of demand without cash to back it up. There's no question in my mind that people are spending more than ever on intellectual property, but the Internet has saturated the market so much. It's nearly impossible for individual ideas to accumulate the kind of cash they did in a more limited marketplace.

E-mail Devon at devon@vsff.com.

SCREENINGS



Stephen Lobo and Gabrielle Miller in *Love and Other Dilemmas*

Now showing:

Love and Other Dilemmas

Wedding day jitters take on new meaning as *Love and Other Dilemmas* has an exclusive theatrical run at the Empire **Granville 7** Theatre. Showtimes are **7:30** and **9:30** pm Monday through Thursday.

Gabrielle Miller (Lacey, *Corner Gas*) stars as Ginger, a pregnant bride determined to beat a curse passed down from her grandmother in order to have the perfect wedding day. It's a doozy as far as hexes go: it causes grooms to die on their wedding days. On a day when everything can go wrong, we find Ginger robbed, kidnapped, thinking her fiancé is dead – he's not - and still wishing for her happily ever after.

Normal

An accident in the past causes ripples of tragedy in the lives of the people connected to it, in particular the victim's bereaved mother, his best friend, and the middle aged man responsible for the crash. *Normal* explores the fragility and humanity of people who are searching for redemption. Stars **Carrie-Ann Moss** (*The Matrix*, *FIDO*) and **Kevin Zegers**, directed by Carl Bessai (*Emile*, *Unnatural & Accidental*).

Showing at **Tinseltown Cinemark Theatres**, Friday to Wednesday, 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:20

NEW CINEWORKS Annual Screening

New Cineworks is an annual screening of new films by members of Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society. Exposing audiences to filmmaking that may not otherwise have an opportunity to see, New Cineworks ignites excitement for local filmmaking and filmmakers. 2008's program aims to explore the space between formal art works and independent production.

New Cineworks features new works from Cineworks members Amy Belling, Caroline Coutts, Tama Gempton, Jason Karman, Toby Gorman, Sean McPherson, Claudia Morgado, Ben Peters, Naoko Sasaki, Sean Patrick Shaul and John Woods.

When: **February 12, 7 pm**

Q+A to follow

Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe St.

AFTERTPARTY to follow at the Cineworks Studio [1131 Howe, back lane entrance]

Filmmakers in attendance



The Bar screens at **Port Moody Film Festival**

The Bar, winning short film of the 1st annual **Hot Shot Shorts Film Contest**, will screen at the Port Moody Film Festival on **Friday, February 15**. *The Bar* is a typical boy-meets-girl story involving chicken breasts, pool sharks, and a xylophone. Film noir meets Airplane! This Bar is the place where nobody knows your name.

Written by Peter New and directed by Mike Jackson of Steam Powered Films and produced by Dan Schlanger, the film stars Peter Deluise (*Stargate*, *21 Jump Street*), Simone Bailly ("The L Word", "Da Vinci City Hall"), Nicholas Elia (*Masters of Horror*, *White Noise*), Berit Beattie, and Peter New (*Black Christmas*, *The Delicate Art of Parking*).

Port Moody Film Festival screens at 9:30pm with *FIDO* at the Inlet Theatre, 100 Newport Drive, Port Moody. \$5 single film, \$8 double feature. Info at 604-469-4571, www.pmfilm.ca.

Source: Celluloid Social Club

UBC MFA Alum **Gwen Haworth** screens *She's A Boy I Knew* during UBC Outweek

Selling out at all three screenings at last year's Vancouver International Film Festival (the 3rd screening added due to popular demand), *SHE'S A BOY I KNEW* won both the VIFF Audience Award and Women in Film Artistic Merit Award. The film documents Haworth's gender transition from 'Stephen' to 'Gwen' through the use of archival family footage, interviews, phone messages, and hand-drawn animation.

Gwen Haworth will be in attendance for a Q&A after the screening. Don't miss it!

More info on Outweek at www.outweekubc.com



First Weekend Club's Canada Screens:

Emotional Arithmetic

An advanced screening for Paolo Barzman's *Emotional Arithmetic* will be held **Thursday, February 21st**. The film stars Gabriel Byrne, Roy Dupuis, Christopher Plummer, and Susan Sarandon.

Canada Screens is a monthly screening and talkback series that features the best of Canadian cinema. Canada Screens offers a unique movie going experience that includes conversations with filmmakers and special guests, and even the occasional wine tasting!

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the day of the screening up to one hour prior to screening time.

Cinema 319, 319 Main Street

6:30 pm Wine sampling, **7:00 pm** Screening

Individual tickets: \$10.00

Five film punch card \$40.00

Ten film punch card \$70.00 Film punch cards are transferable.

Cash and Visa only.



More info at: 604-983-5373 or www.firstweekendclub.ca.

SUBMISSIONS

Asian-Canadian Filmmakers Showcase

On Shaw Multicultural Channel, Cable 109 during Asian Heritage Month in May 2008

If you are a local emerging British Columbia filmmaker of Asian-Canadian heritage, or a local aspiring filmmaker telling stories that explore Asian-Canadian culture, you are invited to submit your full-length or short film to the ASIAN-CANADIAN FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE.

Selected films will air on Shaw Multicultural Channel, Cable 109, in May 2008 during **explorASIAN** 2008 celebrating Asian Heritage Month. Your film could be seen by over 740,000 households in the B.C. Lower Mainland.

Films must:

- Be themed with Asian-Canadian content, or made by Asian-Canadian filmmakers
- Be fully cleared for all rights (music, performance, copyright)
- Be 10 minutes to 2 hours in length
- Be clearly labeled and submitted in Beta SP or Mini DV format
- Include a brief CV of the filmmaker(s)
- Include a 1-2 paragraph story synopsis

Deadline: **Friday, February 29, 2008** – 4:00pm PST

More info at smc@shaw.ca or http://vancouver.shawtv.com/smc/smc_filmmakers.htm

Source: Women in Film & Video Vancouver



Novus Video Contest

NVTV 4 is now accepting submissions for their video contest.

Create a 1-5 minute video about "What Vancouver Means to You." Use your cell phone, video camera, or animate something. Create a documentary, profile, piece, short film, even a cartoon. Be as creative as you can!

All videos will be uploaded to a website where viewers can vote on their favourite video. The video with the most votes wins a \$1000 grand prize! Runner up prizes to be announced.



Submission deadline: **March 1, 2008.**

More info at: www.novusnow.ca/community/contest or nvtv@novusnow.ca.

UPCOMING FILM FESTIVALS

Rendez-vous French Film Festival

February 6-16, 2008, www.rendez-vousvancouver.com

Port Moody Film Festival

February 14-16 & 21-23, 2008, www.pmfilm.ca

Red Carpet Festival

February 18-22, 2008, www.festivalcinemas.ca/movies/red-carpet.htm

Reel to Real International Film Festival for Youth

February 22-29, 2008, www.r2rfestival.org

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival

February 22-March 1, 2008, www.vimff.org

Women in Film Festival BC

February 29-March 8, 2008, www.wiffbc.com

Sistahood Cinema: Exquisite Cinematic Corpse (screening part of Sistahood Celebration)

March 14, 2008, www.sistahoodcelebration.com

Vancouver Jewish Film Festival

March 27-April 6, 2008, www.vjff.org

UVic Sunscreen Short Film Festival

April 11, 2008, <http://people.finearts.uvic.ca/~filmfest/>

Okanagan Film Festival

April 16-20, 2008, www.okanaganfilmfestival.com

EyeLens Film, Video & New Media Festival (Gulf Islands Film & TV School Showcase)

May 3, 2008, www.giftsfilms.com

BC Student Film Festival

May 10-12, 2008, www.bcstudentfilm.com

VANCOUVER STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

May 24, 2008, Vancity Theatre, www.vsff.com

DOXA Documentary Film Festival

May 27-June 1, 2008, www.vcn.bc.ca/doxa

MANDATE

The concept behind the Vancouver Student Film Festival is to promote the already vibrant community of young Canadian filmmakers in the province. By showcasing the films of students and recent graduates from post secondary film institutions, we hope to enhance the lines of communication that currently exist and provide an arena where emerging current and former student filmmakers can show their films to the public, as well as meet and view the work of their fellow colleagues.

Website:
www.vsff.com

E-Mail:
info@vsff.com

The organizers continue to raise awareness for young film, video and new media pioneers and provide a unique opportunity for local and national businesses and the movie-going public to show their commitment to the BC student film community.

VSFF is a registered non-profit society.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

To submit articles, announcements, or news bytes for inclusion in the next VSFF newsletter, please send an email to sandra@vsff.com. Max. 300 words and no more than two photos or images, please. Deadline for June 2008 inclusion:

May 31, 2008.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, please email sandra@vsff.com with the appropriate word in the Subject line.