



VANCOUVER
SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL

June 2009

Issue #9

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Call for entries 1
- VSFF news 2-3
- VSFF Board of Directors 3-4
- NSI Special Features 5
- Screenings 6
- Events 7
- Submissions 8
- VSFF Mandate 9

VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

2 months to entry deadline for the 1st annual
VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL!

BC's BEST SHORTS

15 mins or less

Made in 2008 or 2009

Apply at www.vsff.com

DEADLINE:

August 8, 6:00pm PST

Entries submitted after this time will not be eligible for screening.
Don't wait until the last minute!

FESTIVAL DATES:

Friday-Saturday, October 23-24, 2009

Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour St at Davie St, Vancouver BC

VSFF taking over social media!

The VSFF now has its own [Facebook Page](#), for those who do not check our [Facebook Group](#) often or do not wish to become members. Become a [fan](#) and get updates faster!

Find the Vancouver Short Film Festival on [twitter](#) by following [@vsff](#) or by visiting our website or www.twitter.com/vsff

Spread the word about VSFF at events!

We would love to have volunteers to help spread the word about our festival at other events by handing out flyers. We can reimburse you up to \$10 upon submission of a receipt. We are looking for exposure at events from now leading up until the festival on October 23-24, and in exchange you will receive one ticket to a VSFF screening and a mention on our website and official festival programme.

If you would like to help spread the word about VSFF at other events, please email lillian@vsff.com.

To volunteer at the VSFF in October, please email volunteer@vsff.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Show your support for the VSFF!

To help us in our applications for grant funding in 2009 and beyond, we would appreciate your **Letters of Support**. Please email letters to info@vsff.com (PDF format preferred) and include your name, organization (if applicable), date, and any positive experience(s) you have had of our events.

CALL FOR SPONSORS

We are still seeking cash, prize, media and in-kind sponsors to support the first-ever **Vancouver Short Film Festival** – same great festival from the last 3 years, now screening BC professional artists in short film, video and new media.

We thank **Annex Pro** and **Langara College** for their financial support, **Vancouver 24 Hours** and **VancouverAnimation.ca** for their media support, and the **Director's Guild of Canada BC Chapter** for sponsoring the **first DGCBC Best Director Award in a Professional Film** for this year's festival. **Movieola The Short Film Channel** is sponsoring a rescreening of our top student and top professional films this year.

For information and to request a sponsorship package, please email sponsor@vsff.com or visit our website for details.

WEBSITES TO LOOK OUT FOR:



www.SuperU.ca is the online venue to watch high quality Canadian short film content, qualified by viewers. There are on-site contests and exposure to Super U's partner, Super Channel.

www.Stuff2do.ca is an online community project allowing people to share videos about Vancouver.



www.Memelabs.com is a customizable tool for organizing user-contributed video submissions. They design, target, run and advertise online contests for companies.



wildsound is a resource for short film, script and film submissions, contests, short films and videos, reviews, and the wildsound film festival.

Visit them and subscribe to their e-newsletter at <http://www.wildsound-filmmaking-feedback-events.com/index.html>

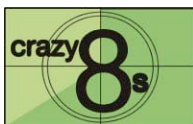
Visit the NFB's new site at www.nfb.ca.



VSFF on the hunt for a TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

We're recruiting for a volunteer Technical Assistant who will attend to the technical needs of the festival. Duties include preparing copies of accepted films for web streaming, and providing video and imaging expertise for festival marketing materials. You will also help ensure that films are screened in the correct aspect ratio, video format, frame rate, etc. You will work directly under the Technical and Programming Director to execute necessary tasks. As with all positions, the candidate will receive a ticket to a screening, reference letter, and have recognition in the programme and on our website.

To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to apply@vsff.com by **June 30th** or email info@vsff.com for more information.



VSFF ALUMNI ROCK 2009 CRAZY 8s

The VSFF congratulates the following filmmakers who screened with us last year and who went on to make some great flicks at this year's Crazy 8s film festival in April:

- Jose Pablo Gonzalez (VSFF Best Film Award winner) – *Mike, Inc.*
- Jake Dunbar (City of Burnaby Best Use of Locations winner) – *Not Another Damn Musical*
- Chris Goldade - *Not Another Damn Musical*
- Kevin Moore - *Not Another Damn Musical*
- Tyson Hepburn – *Cash AToM*
- John Driftmier – *Cash AToM*

MEET THE VSFF BOARD!

The VSFF is extremely excited to announce the official Board of Directors for the Vancouver Short Film Festival Society, which will serve as a valuable advisory board to our festival staff. Please join us in welcoming the 2009 VSFF Board!

JUN PAUL OBAYASHI - Chief Executive Director



Jun Paul Obayashi has over 15 years of business and Entertainment Management experience, having founded his production company, *Candlelight Motion Pictures*. Jun was a judge for the inaugural Festival in 2005 and sponsor of the Candlelight Motion Pictures Best Film Award. In 2006 and 2008, he joined the staff as Festival Producer and is now leading the Board of Directors in his role as Chief Executive Director.

BRIAN DANIN - Founder



As of May 2009, Brian started working for ZejMedia in Washington, D.C. on documentaries and social media strategy. Concurrently, Brian is the owner and CEO of BZD Productions, an Atlanta based independent production company. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film production from the University of British Columbia in 2007 and is currently pursuing an MBA at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Brian has produced films for almost a decade, ranging from animations and comedies to documentaries; his films have played world-wide and his 2007 film "Personal Growth" is in international distribution. Also an avid photographer, he has worked on commissioned projects, had his art exhibited in galleries and does freelance production and camera work in Atlanta. He founded the Vancouver Short Film Festival (VSFF) in 2005 and was Director for the festival's initial two years.

PAUL ARMSTRONG



Paul Armstrong is a film, television and theatre producer. He is co-founder and producer of *The Celluloid Social Club*, a monthly screening series of independent short films. For the First Weekend Club, Paul produces Canada Screens, a monthly screening of Canadian feature films. Paul is also President of the Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival. Feature film credits include 'Moving Malcolm' and the Genie Award nominated 'See Grace Fly.' He is currently in production on the documentary *Revolution, The Legacy of the Sixties* and in development on several dramatic feature films.

Short film credits include 'Everything's Coming up Rosie', 'The Bar', 'Break a Leg, Rosie', and 'Mon amour mon parapluie.' Paul has also produced music videos for Bif Naked, Jim Byrnes, Jessie Farrell and Jeff Martin of the 'Tea Party'. Commercial projects have included on-line viral webisode campaigns (Nintendo), corporate videos (Red Cross), television commercials (Storyeum), radio and television commercial campaigns (Glentel WirelessWave) and special event videos (Molson Canadian).

Paul has also produced 20 plays, from Shakespeare to Ibsen to Mamet.

ANDREW WILLIAMSON



Andrew has produced over 40 short films and recently directed the short eco-comedy *The Green Film* which is currently on the festival circuit. Crazy8s was founded by Andrew in 1999 and Crazy8s films have played festivals and televisions around the world and won numerous awards. *Man Feel Pain* won Best Short Film in 2004 at the Toronto International Film Festival, and *Crazy Late* garnered Zack Lipovsky a top five spot on Steven Spielberg's *On The Lot*. The Crazy8s library is now distributed worldwide by *Ouat! Media*.

Andrew directed and produced *Sea* for Shavick Entertainment and produced the Telefilm feature *Sk8 Life* for Travesty Productions, which screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 2007. He works with Keatley Entertainment as Director of Development, is developing his second feature, *Our Daily Bread*, as a director, and is producing *Red Coat Justice* with Travesty Productions, which will shoot in the Yukon this summer.

GEORGE HARRIS

Entrepreneur George Harris founded the Gulf Islands Film & Television School (GIFTS), the only rural summer camp in Canada dedicated to training youth in film and video production. Since its inception, over 1200 teenagers and adults have experienced GIFTS' innovative 6-day media production intensives. Together they have created a total of over 700 videos--including dramas, documentaries and classical and computer animations--from the initial script right through to the final screening.

SEANNA MCPHERSON

Seanna McPherson has worked as a producer, director, and AD in film & TV for the past 17 years. Documentary producer credits include award-winning "Shaking the Tree" and "Talk To Me." Seanna co-produced the critically acclaimed short film "Sabor a Mi", winner of The Jury's Award at the Northwest Film and Video Festival and The Public Award at The Film De Femme in Creteil, France. While in development on the Feature Film *Go Go Boy* with writer-director Kenneth Sherman, Seanna co-produced the shrot "Go Go Boy - A Prelude" winner of 4 Leo Awards. Feature credits as first AD include *Snow Walker* directed by Charles Martin Smith and *Better Than Chocolate*, directed by Anne Wheeler. Seanna has worked as an AD on dozens of feature, TV movies, series and pilots.

NICK MIDDLETON

Nick Middleton is the Communications Director and Producer of the Gulf Islands Film & Television Program.

NSI NEWS SPECIAL FEATURES



Cheryl Binning talks to NSI Global Marketing alumnus Ric Beirsto, a writer, director, producer and film school teacher, who recently updated his 1998 book The Tyranny of Story: Audience Expectations and the Short Screenplay. Beirsto originally wrote the book because he was frustrated by the lack of short film screenplay guides available.



Shorter isn't necessarily any easier.

Both emerging and veteran filmmakers are attracted to the short film format because it requires discipline and restraint and yet, at the same time, offers numerous freedoms.

"It's a good news, bad news situation," says Vancouver filmmaker and NSI Global Marketing alumnus Ric Beirsto. "The short format is far more flexible and forgiving and poetic than long form. Shorts can be experimental and highly visual or symbolic. All of which is harder to sustain stylistically in a feature. So there is a great freedom to working in the format. But there are constraints on the kind of story you can do well in short form."

[*Continue reading...*]

http://www.nsi-canada.ca/the_tyranny_of_story_the_short_screenplay_cheryl_binning.aspx

Also:



Ian Bricke blogs about his essay in Sharon Badal's book ***Swimming Upstream: A Lifesaving Guide to Short Film Distribution***.

Read the full blog here: http://www.nsi-canada.ca/short_film_distribution_ian_bricke.aspx

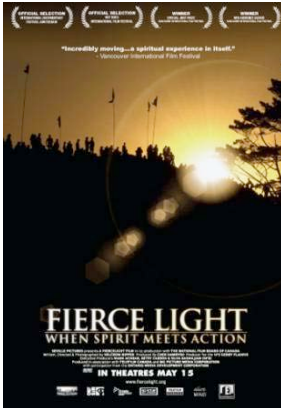
Write for the NSI website

Do you want to share your knowledge and experience? Are you interested in helping other writers, directors and producers benefit from what you've learned? In the spirit of building our online community and sharing experiences with other folks in the film, TV and digital media worlds, NSI is accepting written contributions to the website.

For more info, visit http://www.nsi-canada.ca/contribute_to_the_nsi_website.aspx

SCREENINGS

Special thanks to the *First Weekend Club* for the information on these great upcoming Canadian films! Please visit and join www.firstweekendclub.ca or the movie websites to see trailers of the films.



FIERCE LIGHT: WHEN SPIRIT MEETS ACTION

In theatres now!

Fierce Light is a feature documentary that captures the exciting movement of Spiritual Activism that is exploding around the planet, and the powerful personalities that are igniting it.

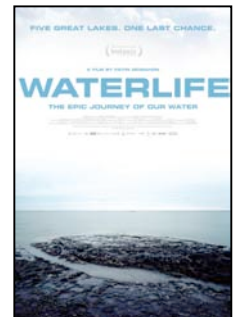
@Denman Place Theatre, 1779 Comox St. Vancouver
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 5:00 pm
Please check theatre in case of updates.

www.fiercelight.org

WATERLIFE

June 19

Waterlife follows the cascade of the Great Lakes from Lake Superior to the Atlantic Ocean, telling the story of the last huge supply of fresh water on Earth.



ACT OF GOD

June 30

Act of God is a feature documentary about the metaphysical effects of being struck by lightning. The event represents the paradox of being singled out by randomness, and so precipitates questions about chance, fate and meaning in life.

THE BABY FORMULA - July 2

In the beginning...sperm came from men. Two adventurous women in love are desperate to have their own biological child. Pregnant with humour and unexpected twists, their journey tailspins out of control when their families discover there is no father.

Visit www.firstweekendclub.ca/canada-screens.html for screening details and www.thebabyformulamovie.com.



EVENTS

A SCREENING of RECENT TOP SHORT FILMS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD
programmed by Kellie Ann Benz



Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Doors - 7:30pm Show - 8:00pm

The ANZA Club, #3 West 8th Ave. at Ontario St., Vancouver, BC

www.celluloidsocialclub.com

Admission/Membership – minimum \$5.00 cash at the door
Hosted by BRENDAN BEISER, Produced by PAUL ARMSTRONG
Co-Produced by AARON HOUSTON & ALEXANDRA STASESON
Technical Direction by MICHAEL BROOKS, PROGRAMMED by KELLIE ANN BENZ

3rd annual VANCOUVER FILM RACE July 17-18



The Film Racing Tour is coming to Vancouver and will be challenging local filmmakers to create an original short film (4 minutes max) in just 24 hours from Friday, July 17th to Saturday, July 18th. All of the completed films will premiere for the public on **July 22** at the Ridge Theatre and the best films will advance into a nationwide competition for over \$40,000 in cash and prizes. Anyone may register, but space is limited. Get your team together and sign up today! To register or learn more, visit www.filmracing.com/Cities/vancouver.htm

Join the New Asia Film Festival Meetup Group!

New Asia Film Festival is a place where you can enjoy and appreciate the diversity and dynamism of Asian cinema. Centred on contemporary and progressive themes related to Asian cultures, we are committed to showcasing cutting-edge documentaries, dramas, animations and media art works from around the world.

Besides an annual Film Festival event, we also have Monthly Screenings held in the Richmond Cultural Centre, workshops, forums, and many fun gatherings at various locations.

Anyone who is interested in intercultural conversations, innovative ideas, as well as information related to Asian film industry, co-production possibilities, etc., will find our activities exciting and informative.

Check our website for the past events: www.vnaff.ca. To join the group, visit www.meetup.com.

SUBMISSIONS



Vancouver International Film Festival
Deadline for Canadian films: June 22, 2009
www.viff.org

JUNE 24 – FINAL SUBMISSION DATE of the **3rd ANNUAL HOT SHOT SHORTS FILM CONTEST**

The Hot Shot Shorts Film Contest, The Celluloid Social Club and William F White International Inc. are proud to announce the launch of the 3rd Annual Hot Shot Shorts Film Contest. **Final** Submission date: **Wednesday, June 24, 2009** at the **Celluloid Social Club** (at the ANZA Club #3 West 8th Avenue, doors 7:30, show 8:00).

VANCOUVER FILMMAKER MEETUP: SHOW YOUR VIDEO CREATIONS

Saturday, June 27, 7:00pm

Romantic Child Studios, 306 Abbott St. in Vancouver

We will have photographers and filmmakers of all experience levels come by to show their work. We have a projector in the studio so everyone will have an opportunity to show their own work whether it be a short film, a small series of their favorite photographs or any other media creation that you would like others to see and have an opportunity to discuss.

For more information on submitting your work, visit the Romantic Child Studios blog at <http://www.romanticchildstudios.com/blog/>



To join the Vancouver Filmmaker Meetup Group, visit www.meetup.com.

VAFF'S Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon

Here is your chance to make a short film in a limited time and win prizes and then see your work shown on a big multiplex theatre screen. Look out for Launch of MAMM5 announcement at www.vaff.org - **July 1**.



Early deadline: July 3, 2009
Short film deadline: July 17, 2009
Feature film deadline: August 14, 2009

www.whistlerfilmfestival.com

NSI Online Short Film Festival

The NSI Online Short Film Festival features 100% Canadian short films that can be accessed 24/7 for free. The festival promotes homegrown talent on both sides of the camera. New films are solicited four times a year and must be short narratives not longer than 30 minutes: the shorter the better! Drama, comedy, animation and short documentaries are all eligible but they must tell a story and must be Canadian. You can now browse titles and directors through an index.

For more info please visit the NSI site at <http://www.nsi-canada.ca/submit.aspx>.
Next Submission deadline: **August 17, 2009**



VANCOUVER
SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL E-Newsletter

UPCOMING FILM FESTIVALS

Taiwanese Film Festival	June 19-21	www.twff.ca
Vancouver French Film Festival	June 19-Sept 10	www.festivalcinemas.ca
Beach Blanket Film Festival	July 17-19	www.beachblanketfilmfest.ca
Squamish Mountain Festival	August 12-16	www.squamishmountainfestival.com
Vancouver Queer Film & Video Festival	August 13-23	www.queerfilmfestival.ca
Prospera Great Outdoors Film Festival	August 15	www.stayplaywhiterock.com
North Shore Film Festival of Life	September	www.northshorefilmfest.org
Vancouver Latin American Film Festival	Sept 10-20	www.vlaff.org

Website:
www.vsff.com

E-Mail:
info@vsff.com

Got news?

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 October 2009 inclusion: **September 30, 2009.**

VSFF MANDATE

The Vancouver Short Film Festival is committed to the promotion of the vibrant community of short film, video and new media artists in the province of British Columbia. By showcasing the films of post-secondary students, alumni, and professionals in the same festival, we hope to build ties between emerging and established filmmakers, allowing BC's film industry to grow and flourish. We provide an arena where all levels of short filmmakers and artists can screen their films in public and support the work of their fellow colleagues.

The Vancouver Short Film Festival Society's vision is to raise awareness for creative pioneers in the BC film, video and new media industries, including those living in or representing local Aboriginal communities. The festival aims to advance the career goals of artists by providing opportunities for exhibition and distribution, celebrating the achievements of artists working on the Canadian West Coast in the medium of short film, and creating lasting working relationships for filmmakers within the BC Film Industry.



**Watch films, make films and
have a great summer!**