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Students to satisfy the hungry cinephile

by Amanda Truscott
CULTURE WRITER

If you think that student film is only for film students, the Vancouver Student Film Festival might make you think otherwise. This year's lineup will include animation, a French-language crime drama, some 1950s period pieces and a documentary, as well as many other diverse and interesting selections. Although it may not quite be "Hollywood," festival staff are enthusiastic about student filmmaking.

"There's so much variety in terms of genre," said Sandra Garcia, the festival's marketing and publicity director. "A lot more free-

dom of expression."

Many of the local institutions with film programs offer showings of their own students' work, but the VSFF is the first local festival to showcase films and videos made by film students and graduates from several BC post-secondary schools. Only in its second year, the VSFF has already generated enough buzz that it is being screened at the Vancouver International Film Centre.

Brian Danin is a UBC film production student and director of this year's festival.

"[The] goal was to bring talent from throughout Vancouver, and now throughout BC, to a central location where they could view each oth-

ers' films, meet at the after party and then work with each other on future projects," he said.

"We thought it would be great to both expand the festival and use the venue to establish ourselves, as well as supplement the mandate of the theatre," said Garcia. Although organizers were pleased with last year's festival, which sold out both of the nights it was running, this year Garcia said that filmgoers will see "an evolution in the skills that these filmmakers are showing."

In addition to the screenings there will be a trade forum on September 16 at 2pm entitled "How to Make Your Next Short Film." The idea is to give aspiring filmmakers a

chance to break into the business of making short films and an opportunity to network with industry insiders. Networking opportunities can also be found at the after parties being held at Mynt Ultralounge (the old Vibes Lounge) on Davie St. on September 15 and 16, but those at the festival for the purpose of art appreciation alone might also appreciate the drink specials and the price of admission—free with a festival ticket stub.

Screenings are being held September 15 and 16 and tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door for most showings. Advance tickets can be purchased at Limelight Video, Edie Hats, Biz Books, and online at www.vsff.com/purchase.php. ☎

