

Student Filmmakers Back to Light Up the Big Screen

Vancouver Student Film Festival to Showcase Record Number of Shorts

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada – The Vancouver Student Film Festival (VSFF) is back for its third year to showcase 29 short films, videos and animation by the top BC post-secondary student and alumni talent on **Saturday, May 24, 2008** at the **VIFC Vancity Theatre**.

"We're glad to be back after a one-year hiatus in 2007," says Sandra Garcia, Festival Director. "We have an amazing lineup of shorts this year. Everything from comedy to fantasy, documentaries, drama, music video, and animation. We've never had such a diverse programme." The VSFF was created in 2005 out of a need to create industry awareness about student works, and allow young film & video makers to establish a network of contacts.

Garcia continues, "There's a stigma of amateurism surrounding student films, but a lot of these are as equally professional as the ones coming out of the industry at the major film festivals. It's time that Vancouver recognized the talent that's emerging out of the West Coast."

A panel of eight industry professionals will judge the films to determine festival awards, worth over \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Sponsors include Movieola, 24 Hours Newspaper, and Vancouver Film School.

Screening & Ticket information:

SET A **5:30pm**, SET B **8:00pm**

Doors open 30 minutes prior to each screening.

After party to follow in the Vancity Theatre Atrium (free with the purchase of a ticket).

ADVANCE TICKETS at **www.vsff.com**: \$8 single, \$14 double bill

DOOR: \$10 single, \$16 double bill

The VIFC Vancity Theatre is located at **1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver, B.C.**

Now a registered non-profit society, the VSFF was conceived in 2005 by several students and graduates from the University of British Columbia who felt a need for a local film festival focussing solely on post-secondary students and graduates. For more information and the full festival lineup, visit **www.vsff.com**.

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Media Contact:

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What: The 2008 Vancouver Student Film Festival (3rd annual)

The VSFF showcases the best of British Columbia's post-secondary student and alumni filmmakers. All films are under 20 minutes.

Where: VIFC Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street (at Davie)

When: Saturday, May 24, 2008
Set A 5:30pm
Set B 8:30pm
Official After-party 10pm – 11:30 (in the theatre atrium)

How to buy tickets: In advance at **www.vsff.com**.
\$8 single show, \$14 double bill

At the door at the Vancity Theatre
\$10 single show, \$16 double bill

Total # of films: 29

Total # of schools featured: 7

Total # of entries received: 92

Awards and Prizes (\$10,000+ value):

- Top 5 films to be rescreened on Movieola, The Short Film Channel
- Best Film: \$500 cash, Industry pass to the 2008 Whistler Film Festival & CFTPA gift bag
- Best Director: \$500 in Maxell Products & CFTPA gift bag
- The Production Services (PS) Vancouver award for Best Cinematography: \$1000 in rentals
- Best Overall Post-Production: \$500 prize pack from MacStation
- Knowledge Network B.C. Perspectives Award: \$1000 cash prize (new for 2008)
- The City of Burnaby Award for Best Use of Location: 2 days of filming in the City of Burnaby
- The George McNeill Columbia Academy Award for Audience Choice: \$500 cash
- Best Actor: Pass to the 2009 Women in Film Festival & CFTPA gift bag
- Best Actress: Pass to the 2009 Women in Film Festival & CFTPA gift bag
- Best Screenplay: \$25 Gift Certificate to Biz Books & CFTPA gift bag

2006 Highlights:

- 17 films featured
- 8 schools featured
- 500 spectators
- 100 entries received
- First-ever VSFF Trade Forum
- Last screening sold out (traditional)

Other Festival Facts:

- Originating in 2005, VSFF is the first and only film festival to focus on films & videos by BC post-secondary students and alumni in one showcase.
- The VSFF is organized and run by a core group of seven volunteer Executive Board Members, who are a diverse mix of students, alumni, and working industry professionals.
- The VSFF became a registered not-for-profit organization in January 2006.
- The VSFF hopes to acquire one or a few non-profit arts grants in order to sustain this event annually.
- Plans for 2009 may include expansion into the first Vancouver Short Film Festival - showcasing short films by students, alumni and professionals alike - and touring the showcase across BC and/or Canada.

For more information: www.vsff.com

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VELCROW RIPPER



Velcrow Ripper creates powerful films that deal with the central issues of our times. He is a Canadian Academy award-winning film director. His 30+ filmography includes *Scared Sacred*, chronicling his pilgrimage to the Ground Zero's of the world, searching for stories of transformation in the face of crisis. His new exploration, *Fierce Light*, captures the inspiring movement of spiritual activism that's exploding around the planet. Visit: www.scaredsacred.org and www.fiercelight.org

CAMYAR CHAI



Camyar Chai has acted in film and television since 1986 so his credits are diverse, ranging from *Beachcombers* to "Stargate SG1". A great believer in indie productions, he has acted in many locally produced short films as well as longer features such as *Everything's Gone Green* and *Protection*. In addition to his film and television work, Camyar is a multi award-winning theatre, opera and radio actor, writer, director and producer. He is the original founder of Vancouver's acclaimed *neworldtheatre* and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Directing. Camyar is also the Executive Director of Leave Out Violence, BC - a youth outreach organization that helps turn youth who have dealt with violence in their lives in to leaders who promote non-violence.

GWEN HAWORTH



Born and raised in Vancouver, Gwen Haworth is a transgender filmmaker, editor, and instructor. After graduating with a degree in psychology, Gwen went on to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in Film Production at the University of British Columbia. She has trained as a director's intern with the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, and served on the board of directors as a programmer for Vancouver's Queer Film and Video Festival. Gwen's recent MFA thesis documentary *She's a Boy I Knew* won the Most Popular Canadian Film at the 2007 Vancouver International Film Festival and has currently been selected by more than 35 festivals, including its premiere at IDFA, the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam.

UWE BOLL



the film.

Uwe Boll embarked upon his directing career with over 10 feature films. He is a larger than life character who dares to challenge the system at all levels. In 2005 Uwe directed *BloodRayne* in Romania and *In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale* in Vancouver, BC. Uwe went on to shoot a horror film called *SEED*, challenging some of the most extreme violence ever explored in cinema. He has recently completed a film version of the computer game, *Postal*, breaking every rule of political correctness and satirizing himself in

Uwe is now directing his Vampire-meets-the-Old-Wild-West feature, *BloodRayne II: Deliverance*. His upcoming features include *Tunnel Rats*, a Vietnam war movie, *Far Cry*, and *Alone in the Dark II*.

ZACH LIPOVSKY



At 23 years of age, director Zach Lipovsky has created award-winning content in the indie community for the past several years. Recent victories include Best Film at Vancouver's prestigious Crazy 8s film festival for his short film "Crazy Late." The film went on to be personally chosen by Steven Spielberg and Mark Burnett for their worldwide search for up and coming filmmakers on the TV show "On the Lot". Zach achieved 5th place out of 12,000 filmmakers.

Since then, Zach has been signed at Endeavor Talent Agency in Los Angeles and is in development on two features. He is also represented for commercial work in Vancouver, New York, and Paris where he completed three spots for McDonalds.

DYLAN AKIO SMITH



Dylan Akio Smith graduated from the UBC Film Program in 2000 and has been working in the film industry ever since. In 2002, Dylan's first short film "The Bug" won numerous awards and was sold to the comedy network. Dylan followed this up with "Man Feel Pain" in 2004 and won the Best Short Film Award at the Toronto International Film Festival. The very next year, Dylan premiered his first feature film *The Cabin Movie* at TIFF and the movie went on to get domestic and international distribution.

After completing the Directors Lab in Toronto at the Canadian Film Centre in 2007 Dylan formed a production company called The Whatever Institute with longtime collaborators Brad Dryborough and Kris Elgstrand. They are developing their next feature along with other short films and projects intended for the Internet.

ERIK PAULSSON



Erik Paulsson is an award-winning producer/director of documentaries and feature films. He is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre for advance film study as well as Concordia University's undergraduate film program.

In 1999, Erik founded his company Red Storm Productions, producing *Eve & the Fire Horse* (2005), *Army of One* (2003), *Say I Do* (2002), *Protection* (2000), and *Island of Shadows* (2000). *Eve & the Fire Horse* won the Special Jury Prize in the world drama section at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. *Army of One* won Best Canadian Feature Documentary at Hot Docs, and was released theatrically across Canada in the spring of 2004. *Island of Shadows*, a one hour documentary produced for CTV, won a Gemini Award and three Leo Awards including Best Director for Erik's directorial work. Among the accolades for *Protection* include the Vancouver Film Critics Award for Best Canadian Indie Feature, Best First Feature at the Victoria Film festival, and the Silver Platter at the Figueira da Foz Film Festival in Portugal.



2008 JUDGES

JANINE BIZZOCCHI STEELE

Janine Bizzocchi Steele is a Business Analyst at British Columbia Film. She coordinates applications to British Columbia Film's direct funding programs, including the Project Development Fund, Slate Development Fund, Professional Internship Program, Passport to Markets Program and the Scholarship Program. Janine graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Film Studies. She is a past executive for the Board of Women in Film & Television Vancouver, and received the WIFT-V Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award in 2007 for her service to the organization. Janine has served on numerous juries locally and nationally, including Summer Shorts, Kickstart, Signature Shorts, the Manitoba Motion Picture Industry Association and the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association. She was a forum speaker at the 2006 Vancouver Student Film Festival.