



PRESS RELEASE

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6th ANNUAL SIDEWALK MOVING PICTURE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES STELLAR COMPETITIVE LINEUP

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, recognized as one of the “Top Ten Film Festival Destinations” by FilmThreat.com, has developed an exciting and diverse lineup for its sixth annual festival in Birmingham.

The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival is set for September 23-26 in Birmingham's historic theatre district. Included in this year's competitive lineup are 10 narrative features and 9 feature-length documentaries. These films will be eligible for the juried awards in their category, including **Best Feature Film** and **Best Documentary**, each accompanied by a cash prize of \$1,000. Additionally, **Audience Choice Awards** will be presented in both the feature film and documentary categories.

Sidewalk's mantra to “bring new films to a new audience” continues for its sixth year. The competition features, selected from over 100 entrants, are:

- **AFTER THE APOCALYPSE** (71 min. / *Black and White*), directed, produced, written by and starring Yasuaki Nakajima, is a futuristic drama about five survivors trying to make sense of a New World after a devastating urban catastrophe challenges their basic human needs.
- **ALICE'S MISADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND** (92 min. / *Color*), directed by Birmingham filmmaker, Robert Rugan, is a contemporary remake of Lewis Carroll's classic "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". Alice finds herself bored and fed up with the world around her. When she is offered the chance to know all the answers to all her life's questions, she takes it, and falls deep into the demented world of Wonderland. Cast includes: Will Keenan, Maggie Henry, Kyle Holman, Chris Garrison, Chris Carr and Melba Sibrel.
- **BLACK-EYED SUSAN** (105 min. / *Black and White*), directed by Jim Riffel, tells the story of Rick and Steve, who decide to rob a dead man's apartment. But what they don't realize is that the old man has distant relatives who left something in the apartment last time they visited -- something that Rick and Steve now have and the gang of relatives want back. As the story unfolds, Steve's girlfriend, a mute who is obsessed with lip-synching songs from the 1940's, lets the audience know what is happening with six songs spread throughout the film.
- **DEAD AND BREAKFAST** (88 min. / *Color*), directed by Matthew Leutwyler and starring Ever Carradine, Erik Palladino, Jeremy Sisto, and David Carradine, is a mystery horror flick which unravels when the already bizarre residents of the town become possessed by an evil spirit and pin six traveling friends down at the bed and breakfast. Armed with a rusty old chainsaw, a can of gasoline, and half a box of shotgun shells, it's time to barricade the house and fight for their lives.

• **GETTIN' GROWN** (75 min. / Color), written and directed by Tuscaloosa filmmaker, Aaron Greer, is a coming-of-age story set in inner-city Milwaukee, where a simple walk to the pharmacy can become a complex rite-of-passage.

• **HIDE AND CREEP** (78 min. / Color), directed by Birmingham filmmakers Chuck Hartsell and Chance Shirley, tells the story of residents of a small Southern town contending with a mysterious flying saucer, bloodthirsty zombies and bad television reception.

• **MEMRON** (79 min. / Color), directed by Nancy Hower, showcases the greatest company in the world - until the bosses cooked the books and mugged everyone blind. Now the busted Memron CEO rules the prison yard golf course while a group of fired ex-employees struggle with the absurdities of starting over from nothing. The improvisational cast includes: Tim Bagley, Mary Pat Gleason, John Lehr, Michael McShane, Evie Peck, Shirley Prestia, Susan Saunders and David Wiater.

• **PIGGIE** (98 min. / Color), directed by Alison Bagnall, tells the story of Fannie Pogue, a pony-tailed wild child who has grown up without a mother and with little influence from her father on the family farm in upstate New York. With her pet pig and an elderly woman she cares for as her closest companions, Fannie scores her life with interludes of self-composed country songs.

• **RICK** (93 min. / Color), directed by Curtiss Clayton and starring Bill Pullman, Aaron Stanford, Agnes Bruckner, Dylan Baker and Sandra Oh, follows the story of a widower, faced with an arrogant boss who is half his age, a distant daughter and a corporate job that forces him to act like the brash and sarcastic jerk he suspects he's becoming.

• **X,Y** (90 min. / Color), directed by Vladimir Vitkin, is a hip and sexy modern New York story of obsession and extreme identity crisis which takes us to places we've never been. X,Y is based on the cult novel by acclaimed author Michael Blumlein.

The competition documentaries, selected from more than 70 entries, are:

DOUBLE DARE (81 min. / Color), directed by Amanda Micheli, is a double-barreled, action-packed documentary about two Hollywood stuntwomen, Jeannie Epper and Zoe Bell. Jeannie, who refuses to retire at sixty-two, doubled for "Wonder Woman" in the 70's, and Zoe landed the coveted job doubling "Xena" at the age of eighteen. With star-studded interviews and rollicking live-action stunt sequences, *Double Dare* is a candid look at two strong, dedicated women who pursue tough careers in male-dominated Tinseltown.

KATHRYN: A STORY OF A TELLER (88 min. / Color), directed by Birmingham filmmaker Norton Dill, chronicles the life of Kathryn Tucker Windham, pioneering photojournalist and writer, and Alabama's preeminent storyteller and collector of southern tales - told through interviews, archival photographs and records, and Kathryn's own story-telling genius.

THE LOSS OF NAMELESS THINGS (110 min. / Color), directed by Bill Rose, tells the story of Oakley Hall III, a 28-year-old playwright with a reputation for brilliance who was on the verge of national recognition when head injuries from a mysterious fall took his artistic life away. **THE LOSS OF NAMELESS THINGS** is the haunting story of Hall's fall from grace, and what happens when, twenty-five years later, a theatre company stages the very play he was writing the night he fell.

MONSTER ROAD (79 min. / Color), directed by Brett Ingram, is a documentary about visionary clay and line animator Bruce Bickford. Combining verite footage, interviews, home movies, childhood drawings and never-before-seen animation, the film explores Bickford's life and the art, and the points of intersection between the two.

THE PORTRAIT OF BILLY JOE (52 min. / Color), directed by Luciana Pedraza, illustrates how a 63 year old country music singer/songwriter, Billy Joe Shaver, uses words and music to reflect the often difficult experiences of his life, including an abusive father, the loss of his wife and son and many substance abuse problems.

THE QUILTMAKERS OF GEE'S BEND (60 min. / Color), directed by Birmingham filmmaker Celia Carey, documents a group of critically-acclaimed black artists from Gee's Bend, Alabama. *The New York Times* lauded their quilts as "some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced."

THE ROYAL ACADEMY (60 min. / Color), directed by Tony Cane-Honeysett, explores the journey of a determined 74-year-old woman artist who fights to get her work accepted by the Royal Academy of Art in London. She's tried every year since 1965.

A STONE'S THROW AWAY (51 min. / Color), directed by Line Halvorsen, features three boys from a refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem. The film provides an intimate insight into the children's thoughts and lives, raising questions about how children are influenced by the conditions in which they live.

WILLIAM MARCH / COMPANY K (56 min. / Color), directed by Robert Clem, uses excerpts from the feature films *Company K* (2004) and *The Bad Seed* (1956), and tells the story of Alabama writer William March (1893-1954) and how his life was affected by his service as a U.S. Marine in World War I.

The 2004 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival is set for September 23-26 in the historic Birmingham Theatre district. Thursday Night Kick-Off Screening tickets (\$6) and Opening Night tickets (\$12) and Saturday/Sunday Weekend Passes (\$25) are available at the Alys Stephens Center Box Office at 1200 Tenth Avenue South or charge-by-phone by calling 975-ARTS or 1-877-ART-TIKS. Weekend Passes may also be purchased in advance at PARISIAN stores. During the festival weekend, only Day passes (\$15) and Single Film Tickets (\$6) are available at the Sidewalk Cafe. Additional information is available online at the festival website at www.sidewalkfest.com

The festival is sponsored by Parisian, the Law Offices of Archie Lamb, Hoeggarden, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkwitz, Giattina Fisher Aycock Architects, Joe Muggs, Rave Motion Pictures, *Birmingham Weekly*, *Birmingham Magazine*, *Filmmaker Magazine*, AL.COM, WBRC Fox 6, Z 100.5 FM, WBHM 90.3 FM, Bright House and Charter Communications.

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