

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES

UNDISCOVERED TALENT IN SHORT FILMS PROGRAM

HONOLULU, HI (October 13, 2009) – Some of the most talented moviemakers began their film careers with a short film and every year, the Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is proud to showcase and award undiscovered talent. This year, HIFF features an impressive collection of 77 short films from directors across the globe, containing diverse genres and subject matter and includes a strong showing from talented local filmmakers.

The various short films will be showcased in HIFF's Short Program sponsored by Glaceau Vitamin Water, Chinatown Film Project, Music Videos Showcase sponsored by go! Airlines, Innov8 Magazine and Nella Media Group, along with short films from students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Academy For Creative Media, Shanghai University, and local students from the Hawaiian Islands.

Digital cable viewers will have a chance to view a select group of Hawaii-made short films and vote for their favorite short by remote control. The "Viewer's Choice Award Powered by Oceanic Time Warner Cable" and presented by Central Pacific Bank is inviting subscribers to support Hawaii filmmaking by choosing their favorite local films from this year's festival. Oceanic Time Warner Cable's video-on-demand features a selection of Hawaii-made short films on NGN video-on-demand channel 680. Voting started October 1st and continues until midnight on October 19th. The film that garners the most votes will be announced at the awards ceremony on October 20th and receive a cash prize.

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year's festival. HIFF's 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters from October 15–25. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters or by phone at (808) 548-5905. The film guide is available online at www.hiff.org. For more information please visit us at www.hiff.org.

FILM SYNOPSES

SHORTS PROGRAM #1

16-Oct 5:45PM Dole

THE ARCHIVE - Paul Mawhinney has amassed what has become the world's largest record collection but due to health issues and a struggling record industry Paul is being forced to sell his collection.

Director: Sean Dunne, USA, 2009, 8m

BLUE TARP CITY – BLUE TARP CITY takes a closer look into the recent spike of the Hawaiian-houseless population. Imagine post-card beaches, prime coastal property and the displacement of hundreds of indigenous people.

Director: Henry Mochida, USA, 2009, 16m

THE DWELLING – This short documentary looks at the community of homeless Tokyoites who are ignored, but have a strong presence in culture.

Director: Sheldon Candis, USA, 2009, 16m

HALF KENNETH - Kenneth, a Japanese American during WWII, hatches a plan to escape from the internment camps and find his Caucasian mother.

Director: Ken Ochiai, USA, 2009, 22m

MOTOO – Meet Motoo, a spirited visiting professor and Obama volunteer from Japan, who knocked on more than 1,100 doors over the course of the campaign.

Director: Adele Pham, Bao Nguyen, USA, 2009, 6m

PARALLEL ADELE - Two half-Vietnamese documentary filmmakers, both named Adele, weave a shared narrative of mixed Asian experiences through interviews with seven other mixed race subjects.

Director: Adele Pham, USA, 2008, 16m

POCKETS - Filmmaker James Lees asks Londoners to share what they're carrying in their pockets and what it means to them.

Director: James Lees, United Kingdom, 2008, 3m

SUSPENDED – This film documents and re-contextualizes the experience of suspended time among a cross-section of people.

Director: Kimi Takasue, USA 2009, 9m

SHORTS PROGRAM #2

16-Oct 4:00 PM Dole

CODSWALLOP - Based on a series of postcards sent by the filmmaker to their son and featuring a collection of surreal characters at crucial moments in their briefly glimpsed stories.

Director: Greg McLeod, Myles McLeod, United Kingdom, 2008, 4m

HE.SHE.IT - A teacher misbehaves to save his last two pupils.

Director: John Alsop, Australia, 2008, 16m

INTOXICANT - An Internet forum called the "BDD Forum System" is threatened with destruction by a hacker named "Intoxicant."

Director: John Hsu, Taiwan, 2008, 26m

LIKE CRAZY - Sinta and Arjuna, a pair of lovers, reunite after a breakup period. Back together, a big showdown ensues in this post-modern re-interpretation of the classic Ramayana.

Director: Sanif Olek, Singapore, 2008, 11m

LOVE YOU MORE - Two teenagers are drawn together by the Buzzcocks' single 'Love You More' during the summer of 1978.

Director: Sam Taylor Wood, United Kingdom, 2008, 15m

TOP GIRL - Brixton rude girls Donna and Felicia are inseparable best friends. Truthful, tender and brutally comic, TOP GIRL tells a story of girls growing up in a man's world.

Director: Rebecca Johnson, United Kingdom, 2008, 18m

WESTERN SPAGHETTI - Everyday objects become delicious ingredients as we learn how to cook spaghetti through stop-motion photography.

Director: PES, USA, 2009, 2m

SHORTS PROGRAM #3

17-Oct 5:30 PM Dole

DANSE MACABRE - For a period of time, while we believe it to be perfectly still, lifeless flesh responds, stirs and contorts in a final macabre ballet.

Director: Pedro Pires, Canada, 2009, 9m

EGGBABY - A teenage Catholic schoolgirl named Allison Chin, is confronted with her parents sexuality, an eggbaby project, and for the first time with the attention of a guy.

Director: Nadine Truong, USA, 2009, 20m

HOW I MET YOUR FATHER - There's a story behind every couple.

Director: Alex Montoya, Spain, 2009, 9m

I DON'T SLEEP I DREAM - A woman tries to escape from a car accident she's caused, only to find that she's left a part of herself behind.

Director: J.P. Chan, USA, 2009, 15m

A MATE - Pera wants to try something kinky in the bathroom, so he asks his mate to help him. However, Pera's wife comes home a bit too soon...

Director: Teemu Nikki, Finland, 2009, 8m

MIRACLE FISH - 8 year old Joe has a birthday he will never forget. After friends tease him, he sneaks off to the sick bay, wishing everyone in the world would go away.

Director: Luke Doolan, Australia, 2009, 18m

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Q&A) - During a Q&A session with an upcoming young director who visited Korea for a special screening of his film, one guy keeps asking questions as the translator of the event tries to find ways to finish this torturous Q&A session.

Director: Jude Jung, South Korea, 2009, 9m

STONES - Nihipali is tired of living alone with her husband and she believes that they should befriend the newcomers to the island. Her husband forbids it. He blames them for their people's departure. But the loneliness is unbearable for Nihipali.

Director: Ty Sanga, USA, 2009, 20m

SHORTS PROGRAM #4

18-Oct 6:45PM Dole

3 WHEELS - This is a story about two polar opposite men who discover they have more in common than they could have ever been imagined at first glance.

Director: Tony Wei, China, 2009, 16m

APHRODITE'S FARM - When the Aphrodite's Farm patriarch dies, the future of the farm is thrown into jeopardy and the arrival of young farm hand Friday creates even more chaos before finally bringing the family's destiny full circle.

Director: Adam Strange, New Zealand, 2008, 15m

CAREFUL WITH THAT POWER TOOL - A young boy discovers the fun of power tools in his father's dangerous workshop.

Director: Jason Stutter, New Zealand, 2008, 2m

THE FADING LIGHT - A young man returns to Vietnam decades after he left the country, to retrieve a reminder of his brother.

Director: Thien Do, Vietnam, 2009, 22m

KEHUA - On returning to his Maori home for the first time, a young boy discovers he has a gift for seeing Maori spirits - but he must gather all his strength to understand their messages.

Director: Wiremu Grace, New Zealand, 2009, 13m

LAYOVER, ON THE SHORE - Two parallel stories of contemporary Honolulu that explore the theme of transition and tensions between real and imagined notions of paradise.

Director: Christopher Makoto Yogi, USA, 2009, 25m

SUMMER BREAKS - The story of two friends as they wander the neighborhood streets on a summer's day. When day turns to night, things get a little more interesting than they expected.

Director: Sean Kruck, USA, 2008, 12m

SHORTS PROGRAM #5

17-Oct 9:15PM Dole

AJUMMA! ARE YOU KRAZY? - A zany comedy that follows the misadventures of three Korean drama fanatics.

Director: Brent Anbe, USA, 2009, 26m

THE BRANCH WILL NOT BREAK - Frank is a regular guy who is looking for the one big score that will change his life.

Director: Fabio Cordoso, USA, 2009, 25m

PATU IHU - A young man explores a memory of a childhood game and a lesson learned from his uncle.

Director: Summer Agnew, New Zealand, 2008, 15m

RIP SMART - Animated Hawaiian Action Sports star Rip Smart wins the Surf Tour Championship then sets a speed record as he and his Team save the World from the sinister Harry Czar.

Director: Steve Bristow, USA, 2009, 22m

TEN FOR GRANDPA - A fast-paced look at the life of a most influential ancestor, David Karr. The narrator tries to decipher if Grandpa was a manipulative antihero or simply a victim of a McCarthy witch hunt.

Director: Doug Karr, Canada, 2009, 7m

HOLOMUA - With land being sold off to foreign hands at an alarming rate, a disconnect develops between Hawaiians and their spiritual connection to the aina.

Director: Vince Keala Lucero, USA, 2009, 8m

SHORTS PROGRAM #6

18-Oct 8:30PM Dole

A SONG FOR OURSELVES - An intimate journey into the life and music of Asian American Movement troubadour Chris Iijima.

Director: Tadashi Nakamura, USA, 2009, 35m

THE LYCHEE THIEVES - Arnie and Ethel grow paranoid and territorial when Keoki, a Hawaiian man who would rather surf than work, offers to pick the lychee tree growing in their backyard.

Director: Kathleen Man, USA, 2009, 35m

ACM NIGHT

23-Oct 7:45PM Dole

DOG AND CAT - A fun story about a brother and sister stuck together in the family van on a hot winter's day in Hawai'i while taking care of their senile uncle.

Director: Robert K. Omura, USA, 2009, 11m

FLOWERS, CHOCOLATES, AND CANDLELIT DINNERS - Determined to show just how serious he is about the relationship, a young man plans on showing his love by relying on the "classic romantic gestures."

Director: Priscilla Stafford, USA, 2009, 12m

JIXIANG JUNCTION - Two stories about two different girls set in the heart of Jixiang, a suburb of Shanghai, where they each begin in one place and end in another.

Director: Kevyn Fong, Gloria Pan Huijia, China, 2009, 10m

LI HING MUI, LILIKOI, & LYCHEE - This is the story of two young boys on a lazy summer day on the north shore and their quest to find shave ice. Through their journey, they learn that when you do things for yourself you don't get very far, but when you do things for others, that's when you truly succeed.

Director: Lauren Cheape, USA, 2009, 11m

LIVE TONIGHT - Miki'ala is surrounded by his Hawaiian culture and language, but being raised on Oahu, he wants to be more like everyone else, more American.

Director: Aina Paikai, USA 2009, 9m

LULU - Nicole gets a surprise one day from her parents, a cute puppy, which she names Lulu. This begins a beautiful, everlasting friendship.

Director: Brittany Itsuno, USA, 2009, 4m

WATCH YOUR TONGUE - This film is about a 13 year old boy who goes to a soccer tryout dreaming that one day he will play in the Hawaiian soccer league, but his handicapped father who has a high temper, stands in the way.

Director: Nasser Marghalani, USA, 2009, 16m

SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY SHORTS

23-Oct 1:30PM Dole

AFFAIRS - A boy falls asleep in a furniture store only to wake up next to an unknown woman.

Director: Kaiyuan Xu, 2009, 7m

APPLE & MASK - Directed by Shanghai University student, Gloria Pan, this is the second part to JIXIANG JUNCTION.

Director: Gloria Pan, 2009, 8m

LIFE FOR RENT - After several house-hunting attempts, a woman meets a single landlord by chance. One fateful encounter pushes these two hearts together.

Director: Ying Shen, 2009, 30m

RISE FROM THE ASHES -A documentary about the living conditions and emotions of the survivors of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

Director: Shijun Zhu, 2009, 35m

THE PEARL MILK TEA - One day Wan Lin finds out she is pregnant. Now, her future and her relationship with her boyfriend becomes unclear as she faces the uncertainties of life.

Director: Xiaoxiao Liu, 2008, 27m

STUDENT SHORTS

24 Oct 10:AM Dole

CANOE PULLING, A LUMMI WAY OF LIFE

Directed by Sara London, Britney Oldham

PATSY MINK: A LEGACY OF BREAKING THROUGH SOCIAL BARRIERS

Directed by Thuy Ny Le

SIX QUICK FIXES

Directed by Cory Garguilo

IT'S WORTH IT TO WAIT
Directed by Catherine De Huff

WHAT IS LIFE
Directed by Bernard Fayloga

PATIENCE
Directed by Kevin Lopez

SHRIMP
Directed by Robert Delim

A RIDE TO REMEMBER
Directed by Adam Kostylo

FROM HUSKING TO HUSTLING
A FYI Films Student Production

SECOND CHANCES
A FYI Films Student Production

VIDEO ON DEMAND – VIEWERS CHOICE AWARD: Powered by Oceanic Time Warner Cable and Presented by Central Pacific Bank - Viewer voting starts Thursday, October 1st and runs until Monday, October 19th at midnight.

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Director: Brent Anbe, USA, 2009, 26m

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CHINATOWN PROJECT: HONOLULU

FREE SCREENING

23-Oct 7:00 PM Chinatown

THE CHINATOWN FILM PROJECT (CFP) tackles Chinatown's elusiveness and its stereotyped representations by constructing new images for the viewer. The project started in New York City, where some of the NYC's most exciting filmmakers were asked to present their unique vision of this global icon. Now it's HIFF's turn. Partnering with Showdown in Chinatown, HIFF presents an outdoor screening of CFP shorts from NYC as well as locally made award-winning shorts from the September edition of Showdown.

USA, 2009, Various with English Subtitles, 70m

MUSIC VIDEO SHOWCASE

23-Oct 6:15 PM Next Door

BJORK: WANDERLUST (UK, 2008, 8 min)

BOA: EAT YOU UP (South Korea, 2008, 3 min)

BURAKA SOM SISTEMA FEAT. DJ ZNOBIA, M.I.A., SABOROSA & PUTO PRATA: SOUND OF KUDURO (Portugal, 2008, 4 min)

CHAIRLIFT: EVIDENT UTENSIL (USA, 2008, 3 min)

COLDPLAY: STRAWBERRY SWING (USA/UK, 2009, 4 min)

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE: GRAPEVINE FIRES (USA, 2009, 3 min)

DIZZIE RASCAL: BONKERS (UK, 2009, 3 min)

LA ROUX: BULLETPROOF (UK, 2009, 4 min)

MGMT: KIDS (UK, 2009, 6 min)

NEUROSONICS AUDIOMEDICAL LABS INC. (UK, 2009, 5 min)

OLD '97S: DANCE WITH ME (USA, 2008, 4 min)

OREN LAVIE: HER MORNING ELEGANCE (USA, 2009, 3 min)

SIA: SOON WE'LL BE FOUND (USA, 2008, 4 min)

SOUR: HIBI NO NEIRO (Japan, 2009, 4 min)

V.V. BROWN: LEAVE! (UK, 2009, 4 min)

WE ARE SCIENTISTS: IMPATIENCE (UK, 2008, 3 min)

ZOÉ: REPTILECTRIC (Mexico, 2009, 4 min)

Festival Information

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. Plus, DEPARTURES, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival will be held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at <http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink>. For more information please visit our website at www.hiff.org.

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