

The Hamptons International Film Festival Sixteen Years in the Making

The 16th annual **Hamptons International Film Festival** will run October 15th through the 19th, celebrating some of the finest films from around the world. Spanning across the East End, from East Hampton, Sag Harbor, Montauk and Southampton, this year's Festival promises everything we have grown to love from this culturally-rich event, while expanding the international scope of films, industry and attendees. For more information: www.hamptonsfilmfest.org.

This year we welcome Executive Director, Karen Arikian, who brings to the Festival a true global perspective; and Director of Programming, David Nugent, who returns on the heels of last year's successful line up. Also returning are many of the popular programs: Conflict and Resolution, World Cinema, Narrative & Documentary competitions, Spotlight films, Shorts, The Rising Stars, and straight from the *Berlin Film Festival* the Shooting Stars program, the Alfred P. Sloan Award, Conversation With...and many more.

"This is a very exciting time." Says Executive Director, Karen Arikian. "The Hamptons International Film Festival has proven itself in so many ways over the past fifteen years, and is now poised to take a more prominent position in the global film festival market. I feel privileged to be part of the current team of hard working and highly creative individuals who are dedicated to fostering the growth of this wonderful festival."

Some advance highlights of the 2008 Festival include:

The 2008 Festival poster will be an original creation by acclaimed artist and East End resident, Malcom Morley.

A man of many talents and visions, known for his individuality in the art world. Malcom Morley's life has been his source of motivation and his trials have influenced his work and styles over the years from Abstract Expressionism to Neo Expressionism. He has received many prestigious awards, including the Turner Prize, and continues to be courageous in the expression of his artwork.

Hamptons/indieWIRE 'Industry Toast'

Founder and Co-Chairman of Fortissimo Films **Wouter Barendrecht**, will be honored at this year's Industry Toast, an intimate Festival event celebrating an individual whose energy, vision, and acumen enhances the industry we are in and propels the art of film to greater heights. **John Cameron Mitchell** will be on hand, among many other notables, to raise a glass to Mr. Barendrecht. Past, 'Toastee's have included: Sony Picture Classics co-President Marcie Bloom, Picturehouse President Bob Berney and producer Ted Hope.

Israel @ 60

This year, the Hamptons International Film Festival will celebrate Israel's 60th Anniversary with a program focusing on films and filmmakers from contemporary Israel. The "Israel at 60" program will feature films both by emerging directors as well as acclaimed masters, and will shed light on the current state of the nation of Israel and its culture, identity and people. In addition to the screenings, we will hold a panel discussion with the filmmakers and finally, we are offering our audiences the opportunity to "create peace in the Middle East" via the video game "Peacemaker", designed by Asi Burak, and featured at Sundance Film Festival and other notable international events.

CNN iReport Film Festival

Excited about the election? Have a video camera? CNN has put out a call to all aspiring filmmakers to make a short film for the iReport Film Festival, an online festival of short films from the campaign trail! The films will cover anything from a topic or candidate, to a behind-the-scenes look at a campaign or grassroots political organization. Judges include film critic **Richard Roeper** and last year's festival Attendee, **Alex Gibney** (*Taxi to the Dark Side*). The winning films will have their world premiere at the 2008 Hamptons International Film Festival, and from there the chance to be featured on Anderson Cooper 360°.

The Hamptons International Film Festival is once again, proud to be teaming up with sponsors *OK! Magazine*, *Fox 5 New York*, *The Hallmark Channel*, *Silvercup Studios*, *Lifetime Movie Network*, *Heineken* and welcomes new sponsors *RoC*, *Traditional Home Magazine*, *Saunders & Associates* and *A & E Television*. While the reach extends around the world, it would not be so with Presenting Sponsors, *Altour International* and *American Airlines*. Their significant contributions and

support help bring filmmakers from around the world to the Hamptons for the intimate dialogues the Festival is famous for.

The Hamptons International Film Festival has screened some of the best films of our time and the 16th year will be sure to continue this tradition. A few of the films that started at the Hamptons and went on to critical acclaim include: "Nowhere In Africa," "No Man's Land", "Open Water," "Evil," "Hotel Rwanda," "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till," "A Touch of Greatness," "In The Bedroom," "Kinsey," "Pollock," "The Triplets Of Belleville", "Walk The Line", "Body of War", "The Savages", and many others.

The Hamptons International Film Festival was founded to celebrate independent film - long, short, narrative and documentary - introducing a unique and varied spectrum of international films and filmmakers to the public. The festival is committed to exhibiting films that express fresh voices and differing global perspectives, with the hope that these programs will enlighten audiences, provide invaluable exposure for filmmakers and present inspired entertainment for all. The 16th Annual Hamptons International Film Festival will be held October 15 through October 19, 2008. Announcements on additional films, programs, events and guests will be forthcoming.

For more information please contact:

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