

8th annual Kansas International Film Festival

Whatever you want to see, it's here.

September 19-25, 2008

Glenwood Arts Theatre

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www.KansasFilm.com

FRI 9/19

Mona (5:25 pm)

Directed by Alan Kirschen

In our faster paced world, when does a mid-life crisis begin? And can a 22-year-old woman be the answer? In this romantic comedy, two 35-year-old men going backwards in life meet the vibrant Mona, who's bounding unselfconsciously forward. Visit www.monathemovie.com.

Filmmaker will attend screening.

One Water (5:35 pm)

Directed by Ali Habashi and Sanjeev Chatterjee

Filmed in 14 countries across the globe, this documentary brings home stunning non-verbal visual sequences, compelling expert commentary, local music, and an overall score to highlight mankind's changing and challenging relationship to water. Visit www.onewaterthemovie.org.

Alcatraz Reunion (5:45 pm)

Directed by John Paget

America's most notorious prison hosted an alumni reunion for every ex-inmate and cell house guard. Against the backdrop of this strange rendezvous, this doc traces The Rock's history.

Random Lunacy: Videos From The Road Less Traveled

(7:30 pm)

Directed by Stephanie Silber and Victor Zimet

They had no home, no money, no formal education. Their sole possession — a camera. This documentary captures a family's videos of survival, adventure, performances and desire. Visit www.poppaaneutrino.com. **Both directors will attend screening.**

The Shadow Within (7:45 pm)

Directed by Silvana Zancolo

This supernatural thriller is about a nine-year-old boy who can connect with the dead. Visit www.tswfilms.com.

Choke (8 pm)

Directed by Clark Gregg

A sex-addicted con-man pays for his mother's hospital bills by playing on the sympathies of those who rescue him from choking to death. Based on a Chuck Palahniuk novel, the film stars Sam Rockwell, Anjelica Huston and Kelly Macdonald. A Fox Searchlight release.

SAT 9/20

August Evening (12 pm)

Directed by Chris Eska

This drama follows an aging undocumented farm worker named Jaime and his young, widowed daughter-in-law, Lupe, as their lives are thrown into upheaval. Lupe is more of a daughter to Jaime than his own children, and the two try to stick together — but change is inevitable. Visit

www.augustevening.com.

Art From the Streets (12:30 pm)

Directed by Layton Blaylock

This documentary about homelessness, art and community service tracks the lives of five homeless artists who participate in a unique art program. See firsthand how this grassroots program changes lives for all involved. Visit

www.artfromthestreets-themovie.com. **Director will attend screening.**

The Rainbow Tribe (12:45 pm)

Directed by Christopher R. Watson

Morgan Roberts, a middle-aged adult in crisis, reunites with his best friend when he returns to the summer camp of his youth. His troubles seem to magnify when he is joined by a rag-tag group of 10-year-old campers. Through their struggles they collectively overcome their personal problems and exchange them for the best summer of their lives. This family comedy stars David James Elliott. **Producer Dan**

Frisch will attend screening.

Silhouette City (2:40 pm)

Directed by Michael Wilson

This documentary takes audiences on a harrowing free-fall through the near space of American religious extremism. This feature-length cinematic essay investigates a growing Christian fundamentalist movement through a historical lens. Visit

www.silhouettecity.com.

The Flyboys (2:45 pm)

Directed by Rocco DeVilliers

Two boys from a small town find their courage tested when they accidentally stow away aboard an airplane owned by the mob. This adventure film stars Jesse James and Stephen Baldwin. Visit www.theflyboysmovie.com.

Lisle Moore, composer, will attend screening.

The Art of Travel (3 pm)

Directed by Thomas Whelan

In this comedy-drama, Conner Layne takes his honeymoon solo. In Panama, he joins an expedition through the Darien Gap's 125 miles of jungle.

Cold Play (5 pm)

Directed by D. David Morin

When a dangerously possessive millionaire husband suspects his trophy wife of having an affair, he hires a slimy Scottish private-eye to tail his wife and get the proof he needs to take action. Vanessa Branch stars. **Director will attend screening.**

The Perfect Cappuccino (5:15 pm)

Directed by Amy Ferraris

One girl's seemingly-harmless obsession with a yuppie coffee beverage leads her to question her community, her country and her entire way of life. Visit www.cappuccinomovie.com. **Director will attend screening.**

Harold (5:30 pm)

Directed by T. Sean Shannon

Spencer Breslin portrays a premature balding young teen trying to adapt to a new high school. Cuba Gooding Jr. plays a school janitor who befriends and helps him through merciless teasing. **Director and co-star Colin Quinn will attend screening.**

Dark Streets (7:30 pm)

Directed by Rachel Samuels

A dashing but naive playboy and scion of a wealthy business clan discovers a web of lies and betrayal leads him to try to unravel the unexpected death of his father. The musical — a stylish fantasy noir fever dream of blues music, seduction, murder and corruption in high places — features original music and the choreography of Keith Young, who also choreographed "Rent."

Woodpecker (8 pm)

Directed by Alex Karpovsky

A curious pair of birdwatchers have descended into the Arkansas bayou in search of a mysterious woodpecker in this existential tragicomedy about hope, perception and some very strange birds.

Flash of Genius (8:15 pm)

Directed by Marc Abraham

This David vs. Goliath tale is based on the true story of college professor and part-time inventor Robert Kearns' (Greg Kinnear) long battle with the U.S. automobile industry to receive recognition for his ingenuity. Dermot Mulroney and Lauren Graham co-star. A Universal release.

SUN 9/21**The World Unseen** (1 pm)

Directed by Shamim Sarif

This moving and passionate love story is set against a backdrop of 1950's apartheid. From overcoming oppression to finding personal freedom, from the hardships of a loveless marriage to the hesitant joy of an unexpected love affair, the film transports the viewer to a vibrant, colorful world that is universal in its themes. Visit www.enlightenment-productions.com.

Brave New West (1:45 pm)

Directed by Doug Hawes-Davis and Drury Gunn Carr

The American West has a new, albeit unlikely hero. "Old West" meets "New West" in the work of independent writer, publisher, artist and activist Jim Stiles, whose independent paper boasts, "Hopelessly clinging to the past." Visit www.highplainsfilms.org.

Under Our Skin (2 pm)

Directed by Andy Abrahams Wilson

It's bigger than AIDS, West Nile Virus, and Avian Flu combined, yet most physicians don't recognize it or are afraid to report it. Insurance companies pay experts to say it's all in your head. And the mainstream medical establishment won't want you to see this film. The shocking story of Lyme disease, what may be the fastest-growing infectious disease in the nation, is a hidden epidemic destroying untold numbers of lives. Visit www.underourskin.com.

Original Intent: The Battle for America (3 pm)

Directed by Anthony Sherin

"Original intent" is the judicial philosophy promoted by President Bush and Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Thomas. Is Originalism a cover for the far right to impose conservative values or is it the only fair and ideologically neutral way for judges and justices to interpret the U.S. Constitution? Featuring Alan Dershowitz, Robert Bork and Nina Totenberg. **Director will attend screening.**

Familiar Strangers (4:15 pm)

Directed by Zackary Adler

How does one relate to parents and siblings after growing up and being replaced by the family dog? Perhaps as weird friends? Maybe killing the dog and playing donkey basketball would help! This comedy-drama stars Shawn Hatosy. Visit www.cavalierfilms.com. **Producer Barry Sisson will attend screening.**

Life. Support. Music. (4:30 pm)

Directed by Eric Daniel Metzgar

A documentary about recovery, this epic but intimate journey about the young, successful musician Jason Crigle who suffers a brain injury proves that "family" may be the strongest material in the universe. Features interviews with

Norah Jones, Marshall Crenshaw, Teddy Thompson and others. Visit www.lifesupportmusic.org.

Murder, Spies & Voting Lies — The Clint Curtis Story (5 pm)

Directed by Patty Sharaf
Join Brad Friedman, editor of Bradblog.com, as he pokes at the seamy side our democracy. Computer programmer Clint Curtis spills some beans as a whistleblower, unloading a suspenseful tale about a certain congressman from Florida and his attempt to procure vote-rigging software. It will have you running for paper ballots! Visit www.truthinthebooth.com.

Driving Men (7 pm)

Directed by Susan Mogul
Susan Mogul goes one on one with ex-lovers, almost lovers and her dad in a constant search for identity in Los Angeles. Sassy, iconoclastic, and never-married, Mogul rides shotgun as she films her men exactly where she wants them — in the driver's seat. Part documentary, part memoir, the film is in essence a road movie. While the men may be in the driver's seat, the viewpoint is strictly female with Mogul behind the lens. Visit www.susanmogul.com.

Hotel California (7:10 pm)

Directed by Geo Santini
Three former partners in crime meet to discuss their shady past and their questionable futures. Erik Palladino, Tyson Beckford and Simon Rex star. **Director will attend screening.**

Alaska Far Away: The New Deal Pioneers of the Matanuska Colony (7:20 pm)

Directed by Paul Hill
In the midst of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal gave 202 destitute Midwestern farm families a chance to start over in Alaska. This documentary tells the story of this bold government experiment, and the families who found themselves thrust into the national spotlight along the way. Visit www.alaskafaraway.com. **Director and Joan Juster, producer, will attend screening.**

MON 9/22

AIR (5 pm)

Directed by Jeremy Osbern
There is a rhythm to life, and when six people lose touch with that current, their worlds come physically crashing down around them in this romantic comedy/drama musical. From the minds of Lawrence filmmakers Jeremy Osbern and Christopher Blunk, the movie is set in Kansas City. Visit www.throughaglass.com/air. **Producer Christopher Blunk will attend screening.**

Illinois (5:10 pm)

Directed by Michael Hess

Set in the stark landscape of the American heartland, this film performs a dispassionate post-mortem on a single family through successive generations. Watch how youthful decisions strip away innocence in this crisp, prairie noir.

Director will attend screening.

Indestructible (5:20 pm)

Directed by Ben Byer
When 31-year-old Ben Byer is diagnosed with ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease, he begins documenting his life on camera. What begins as a series of video diaries grows into a three-year journey that takes him around the world looking for answers — and a cure. Visit www.myspace.com/indestructiblefilm.

Critical Condition (7:20 pm)

Directed by Roger Weisberg
What happens when you're sick and uninsured in America? The unforgettable subjects of this documentary discover that being uncovered can cost them their jobs, health, homes, savings and even their lives. By exposing the tragic human dimensions of America's health care crisis, viewers will feel both outraged and motivated to address this national disgrace at the precise moment when health care reform will be debated during the run-up to the presidential election. Visit www.pppdocs.com.

Freezer Burn (7:30 pm)

Directed by Charles Hood
A brilliant scientist falls for his wife's 14-year-old art student. And using the technology from his research, he freezes himself to align his age with hers.

As We Forgive (7:40 pm)

Directed by Laura Waters Hinson
Could you forgive a person who murdered your family? This is the question faced by the subjects of this documentary about Rosaria and Chantal — two Rwandan women coming face-to-face with the men who slaughtered their families during the 1994 genocide. View the lives of four neighbors once caught in opposite tides of a genocidal bloodbath, and their extraordinary journey from death to life through forgiveness. Visit www.asweforgivemovie.com. **Director will attend screening.**

TUES 9/23

Finding Kraftland (5:10 pm)

Directed by Richard Kraft
After the death of his brother, a Hollywood agent drags his son through an obsessive quest to recapture his own childhood in this documentary.

Remarkable Power! (5:20 pm)

Directed by Brandon Beckner

A late night talk show host (Kevin Nealon) concocts a scheme to save his cancelled show, entangling a collection of Tinsel-towners in the process. **Director and Scott Sampila, producer, will attend screening.**

Tammuz (5:30 pm)

Directed by Nir Toib

On the morning of June 7, 1981, eight Israeli pilots set out on a suicide mission targeting the Iraqi nuclear reactor Tammuz. This Israeli documentary reveals the political and human machinations that preceded the decision to attack the reactor; plus the moral dilemmas and the considerations for and against the attack. Visit www.gn-com.com.

Shall We Gather at the River (7:15 pm)

Directed by Don McCorkell

Scientists and health officials have raised grave concerns about so-called "factory farms." They have been called "mini Chernobyls" causing vast environmental damage and risk to human health. The film starts in the U.S. with a brief look at our history and how we got from a country of family farms to one dominated by multinational corporations with gigantic factory farms — literally cities of animals. The film examines the impact of urbanizing animal populations without a way to handle the vast amounts of sewage generated. Visit www.shallwegatherattheriver.com

A Friend Indeed: The Bill Sackter Story (7:30 pm)

Directed by Lane Wyrick

Abandoned in an institution for 44 years, Bill Sackter would never see his family again. Forgotten and alone, his life changed through the help and friendship of a young college student, Barry Morrow and several other caring individuals. With a harmonica, a warm cup of coffee, and an incredible embrace of life, Bill transformed from a neglected individual into a national hero for the disability community. Barry's time with Bill was formerly turned into a highly successful made-for-television drama "Bill" (1981), starring Mickey Rooney as Bill and Dennis Quaid as Barry. This inspiring and emotional real-life documentary for people of all ages shows how the problems of the past can be overcome by friendship, compassion and love. Visit www.billsackter.com.

Director will attend screening.**No Through Road** (7:45 pm)

Directed by Sam Barrett

The serenity of another quiet evening is shattered for an amateur photographer when a desperate woman takes refuge in his humble suburban home. Reluctantly, he is pulled into a cat-and-mouse game with her pursuers. Only dawn will reveal the blood-soaked fallout of being alone in the middle of suburbia. Visit www.nothroughroadmovie.com.

WED 9/24**¿ La Verdad? (The Truth?)** (5:10 pm)

Directed by Helen Smyth

A traveling New Zealand family is accidentally drawn into the heart of Cuban politics. They meet Nestor Baguer, alias Agent Octavio, who was courted by the CIA but ultimately worked undercover for Castro for 40 years. Barry Barclay, New Zealand filmmaker laureate says, "This is one of the most complex and layered political (and human) documentaries to come out of (New Zealand). Visit www.laverdadfilm.com.

Women of Tibet: A Quiet Revolution (5:20 pm)

Directed by Rosemary Rawcliffe

In 1959 thousands of unarmed Tibetan women took to the streets of Lhasa to oppose the violent Chinese occupation of their country. For the first time on film, three generations of Tibetan women and His Holiness the Dalai Lama recount one of the great movements of nonviolent resistance in modern history. Visit www.frameofmindfilms.com.

Director will attend screening.**Today the Hawk Takes One Chick** (5:30 pm)

Directed by Jane Gillooly

Amidst the highest prevalence of HIV in the world and the lowest life expectancy, three grandmothers in Swaziland cope in this critical moment in time. Visit

www.janegillooly.com. **Director will attend screening.**

Children of Armageddon (7:20 pm)

Directed by Fabienne Lips-Dumas

In the face of a potential nuclear renaissance, this passionate and deeply moving account explores the legacy of nuclear arms in Japan, the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, New Zealand, and around the world. This documentary features Noam Chomsky, Hans Blix, Judge C.G. Weeramantry, Arjun Makhijani and Douglas Roche. Visit www.redletterfilms.com.

La Americana (7:35 pm)

Directed by Nicholas Bruckman

Though a story about one woman, this documentary illustrates the story of millions of illegal immigrants forced to leave their families behind in order to provide them a better life. It is the story of a continent divided not by values, but by a physical and political barrier that separates families indefinitely, sometimes forever. Visit

www.peopletelevision.com/laamericana. **Director will attend screening.**

IFC/KIFF 2008 Film Competition:**"Seriously ..." Kansas City's Dramatic Filmmakers** (7:45 pm)

Short films featuring the talents of local filmmakers will delve into the drama of life — with a nod to Kansas City.

THURS 9/25

War Eagle, Arkansas (5:10 pm)

Directed by Robert Milazzo

This character-driven drama relates a young man's choice of whether to leave his family and friends for a career in baseball or stay and redeem his struggling community. The story takes place over a few pivotal weeks in the summer after Enoch Cass's senior year, and is set against the backdrop of Arkansas' beautiful Ozark Mountains. The film stars Brian Dennehy and features James McDaniel and Mary Kay Place.

This Dust of Words (5:20 pm)

Directed by Bill Rose

Thirty years after he last saw her, Stanford English professor John Felstiner finds wonder and mystery in the life and death of a former student. Much like Elizabeth Wiltsee's conviction that words fail to capture the essence of existence, so too are they inadequate at understanding the mysteries of her life. This documentary, whose title is taken from Elizabeth's Stanford honors' thesis, is both a meditation on life's journey as well as the story of an uncommon compassion and kindness: An elegy for a life lived differently — tragic, beautiful and haunting, right to the very end. Visit www.thisdustofwords.com. **Director will attend screening.**

Greensboro: Closer to the Truth (5:30 pm)

Directed by Adam Zucker

A documentary chronicling the participants in the Greensboro Massacre, a 1979 attack in which the Ku Klux Klan killed five Communists in broad daylight — and no one was convicted. Klansmen and former Communists then converge in the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission to be held in the U.S. in 2004-2006. Visit www.greensborothemovie.com.

Next Exit, Main Street (7:25 pm)

Directed by Dana Mannion, Jeff Baldo, Travis Cook and Jeremy von Stilb

40 days. 40 nights. 7,000 miles. Four young filmmakers journey from coast to coast across the U.S. to explore American Identity in this documentary. Visit www.nextexitmovie.com. **Mannion, Cook and Von Stilb will attend screening.**

Out Late (7:35 pm)

Directed by Jennifer Brooke and Beatrice Alda

This documentary looks at five individuals who made a decisive change after age 55 to come out as lesbian, gay or transgender. Why did they wait until their 50s, 60s and 70s to come out? And what was the turning point that caused each of these people finally to openly declare their sexuality? From Canada to Florida to Kansas, we find out what ultimately led these dynamic individuals to make the liberating choice to pursue fully integrated lives. Visit www.foreverfilmsinc.com. **Both directors will attend screening.**

RIGGED (7:45 pm)

Directed by Jonathan Dillion

In the seedy underground of illegal prizefighting, a corrupt boxing promoter is embroiled in a dangerous fight-fixing scheme with his female prizefighter. Kansas City native Jonathan Dillon directed this action drama in KC with local actors. Visit www.riggedthefilm.com. **Director will attend screening.**

KIFF SHORT FILMS – precede some feature-length films

Death of the Reel! — Guy Maddin travels to Kansas City where cinema's being destroyed by neglect and contempt. KC's own Benjamin Meade and Madden envision a nearly post-apocalyptic America that's lost respect for the art of film.

The Little Meeting — An urban Moroccan school plans an exchange with its rural counterparts, but a young boy misses the bus and makes the long journey by bicycle. This short film is in Tamazight with English subtitles