

# Kids Jury: Look Who's In Charge!

Press Release



## 25th Annual CICFF Children's Jury

August 5-15, 2008

**CHICAGO, IL - July 31, 2008** - If you thought Roger Ebert or Michael Phillips were the toughest critics in town, guess again. Here come 70 "no-funny-business" critics who may not have a license yet but are definitely taking the driver's seat of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival-the kids! The Children's Jury (ages 7-10 and 11-14) of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival will run August 5-15, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Facets Multi-Media, Inc., 1517 W. Fullerton Ave.

Every year, the Chicago International Children's Film Festival gives their top youth critics the chance to view quality international films and select the winners of the festival's most prestigious awards.

The 2008 Chicago International Children's Film Festival Children's Jury participants will critique 50 films that have been selected from among 700 submissions for the 25th Annual Festival.

The Children's Jury will rate each film based on several criteria, including cinematography, script, characters/acting, and themes. The Children's Jury will select the winners of prestigious awards in more than seven categories, including "Best Live Action Feature Film," "Best Animated Short Film," and "Best

Child Produced Film." The Children's Jury Awards will be announced at the CICFF American Airlines Closing Night Ceremony on Sunday, November 2.

"If our Children's Jury loved a movie, it's a real gold star for the director because these films are made for kids," said Jessica Wheeler, Festival Programming Coordinator.

The Children's Jury is convened from graduates of Facets Multi-Media's Young Chicago Critics. This summer program trains kids during an eight-day camp about the brainstorming process, storyboarding, writing a script, acting, shooting scenes, along with how to review films and critically examine a film's underlying messages.

"Thinking critically and analyzing each element of a film are transferable skills our youth can take from film screenings to success in school," says Nicole Dreiske, the Director of Children's Programming. "The earlier they start learning and practicing these skills the better - they'll have a foundation for digesting and responding to all kinds of media."

Joining this year's Children's Jury are four up-and-coming young critics from Italy's prestigious Giffoni Film Festival.

"This is a great opportunity for these young jurors to view quality international films to broaden their understanding of the world and expose them to a variety of cultures, languages, and lifestyles unknown to them," said Festival Operations Manager Kathleen Beckman. "Having the international perspective of their peers from Italy will give them an even richer experience."

The Chicago International Children's Film Festival is the largest children's film festival in North America and runs October 23 - November 2, 2008.



The Children's Jury will run August 5 - 15. For more information about the Children's Jury or the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, please contact Kathleen Beckman at 773-281-9075, email [kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:kidsfest@facets.org), or visit the official website at <http://www.cicff.org>.

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