



## CICFF Kid Critics Take on the World!

*Press Release*

### Chicago-area Kids Critique & Create Films in Italy & Korea

Chicago, IL - While most kids' summers are spent playing Little League and going to the pool, graduates of Facets Multi-Media's acclaimed Young Chicago Critics program are marching to the beat of a different drummer-all the way to Europe and Asia.

On July 11, four alums of the Young Chicago Critics program traveled to Giffoni, Italy, to serve as youth jury members for the internationally renowned Italian Giffoni Children's Film Festival, Europe's largest film festival for children. Jeff Winter and Michael Borch of Chicago, Maya Dinerstein of Evanston, and Mary Kate Styler of Oak Lawn departed the U.S. for twelve days of critiquing award-winning children's films from around the world. They will participate in intensive filmmaking workshops, and meet fellow film fans from several different countries.

Still more YCC alumni will traverse the globe next week. On July 17, four Chicago-area teenagers will journey to Seoul, Korea to participate in the prestigious five-day Seoul International Youth Filmmaking Camp. David Orlikoff and Francis Wellin of Chicago, Simone Egipciano of Palatine, and Charlie Schmidlin of Elgin will have the opportunity to produce a short film and screen it at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Seoul International Youth Film Festival.

Designed for kids aged 7 to 14, Young Chicago Critics gives students the skills and confidence needed to produce and criticize films. The eight lucky delegates traveling to Italy and Korea were chosen from a group of hopefuls during a mid-May audition.

Young Chicago Critics is a program of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. The CICFF is the largest festival of films for children in North America and features over 200 animated and live action films from 35 countries. The Festival welcomes over 24,000 Chicago area children, adults, and educators to the screenings, and over 100 filmmakers, media professionals & celebrities attend the Festival to lead interactive workshops with kids. The 2007 CICFF will be held on October 18-28.

For more information about the Young Chicago Critics Program, the Chicago International Children's Film Festival or Facets Multi-Media, please contact Kathleen Beckman at (773) 281-9075, email [kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:kidsfest@facets.org) or log onto our website at [www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org).

About the CICFF - For more than 30 years, the Chicago International

### Chicago Kids Are Celebs in Italy



Young Chicago Critics graduate Maya Dinerstein was interviewed by Italian TV on Thursday. "It's an amazing experience...we watch movies, get interviewed by the press, and go home to see ourselves on television!"

Children's Film Festival has set new standards for what children's festivals can achieve. As the largest and longest running children's film program in North America, the CICFF discovers the best in world cinema, featuring over 200 films from 40 countries. By continually raising the bar for quality children's programming the CICFF has become the only Academy-qualifying children's festival in the world. With year round programs, audiences of 30,000 and more than 100 directors in attendance, the CICFF redefines children's media.

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