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KidsFest Insider

March 2006

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CICFF News & Updates



Greetings!

Welcome to Kidsfest Insider, a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting the year-round events and activities of the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

CICFF Program Celebrates Children of Color

The CICFF Pays DeKalb's Chesebro Elementary a Special Visit!



Thanks to the generous support of the 3M Foundation, 200 students from DeKalb's Chesebro Elementary received a special treat on Friday, February 17 when the CICFF took its "Media Smart" program out of Chicago theaters and into suburban classrooms. After screening the short film program "Proud to Me: Stories of African American Children" in honor of Black History Month, the 3rd – 5th graders took part in a post-film discussion talking about how minority

children are viewed in their own communities.

That same day, the CICFF's flagship professional development workshop, "Using Media to Boost Skills and Scores", was presented for the entire faculty of Chesebro Elementary, garnering top grades from attending teachers.

Young Animation Fans get Hoodwinked



On January 12, Facets Multi-Media's theater was

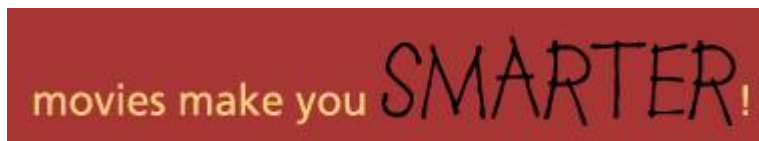
packed with young animation enthusiasts for the Chicago premiere of *Hoodwinked!*, a special free screening for Facets Future Filmmakers and local area school children. Complimentary tickets to the screening were given to a total of 16 Chicago Public Schools and four CICFF "Partner" Schools. The 3-D animated film, voiced by Anne Hathaway, Glenn Close, Andy Dick and Jim Belushi, spun a unique series of hilarious perspectives on *Little Red Riding Hood*. The screening featured a 30 minute post-screening discussion with director Corey Edwards.

"Media Smart" Meets Shakespeare!



In collaboration with the University of Illinois Chicago – Special Education program, the CICFF's "Media Smart" program reached four classrooms of children on Friday, February 24 who were about to read *Julius Caesar*. This clever (12 minute!) animated film of Shakespeare's masterpiece was screened as a strategy to help children understand what they're about to read. Director Anya Rose (winner 2002 Montgomery Award) commented, "This is a wonderful way to use the film. I'm going to tackle *Othello* next."

CAEYC Attendees Learn How to "Tame TV"



On January 26, Nicole Dreiske, Artistic Director of the CICFF, led a high-energy workshop for 136 teachers, parents and education professionals at the Chicago-Metro AEYC "Opening Minds" Conference. Topic of presentation: teaching children "the right way" to watch film and television. "I never knew there was a right way for children to watch television. I'll be using these techniques at home and in school." *Doris Rolland*

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CICFF Conquers NYC



Programmed in Association with the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, the BAMkids Film Festival returned for its eighth consecutive year on March 4 and 5 at the BAM Rose Cinemas in Brooklyn, NY. The sold-out screenings featured the 46 of the best international children's films from 23 countries.

International Networking!

CICFF Programmer Heads to Berlin



Festival Program Director Deidre Searcy made her debut trip to the Berlin Film Festival in search of new films for the 23rd Annual CICFF and was warmly welcomed by the Kinderfest Director,

Thomas Hailer, and his amazing staff.

In addition to previewing some of the best children's films from around the world, Searcy networked with bright young filmmakers, made new connections with film industry professionals, and greeted old friends who fondly reminisced over their past experiences at CICFF.

Changing Kids' Lives With Media

When children watch films from other countries they connect to people different from and yet similar to themselves. They gain personal insight into the differences that enrich our lives and the similarities that give us common, yet precious, human ground.

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The CICFF's year-round Media Education programs use media to improve classroom learning and help transform the way kids relate to the most powerful influence in their lives.

Although the CICFF provides free tickets and workshops to more than 10,000 children each year, we have requests for programs and services from more than 50 additional schools annually.

Won't you help us help Chicago's children?

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