

MediaBridge Youth Film Festival

August 11 & 12, 2007

Press Release

Out of This World: Teens Screen Top International Films at MediaBridge Youth Fest



Chicago, IL - July 26, 2007

Celebrate the MediaBridge Youth Fest, a two-day film festival curated by 14 youth ambassadors from China, Palestine, the UK, Serbia, Slovenia, India, Mexico, and Puerto Rico and 11 Illinois teens.

Four screenings will be held over two days: **Saturday, August 11th at Facets Multi-Media** (1517 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago) **at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and Sunday, August 12 at the Harold Washington Cultural Center** (4701 S. King Drive, Chicago) **at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.** Tickets, \$8 per screening for adults, \$6 for students. A festival pass can be purchased for \$18.

The international short films and feature were selected by MediaBridge participants from a pool of nearly 200 films through a process of dynamic small-group debates. Milos Stehlik, Facets Executive Director says, "The international collaboration in programming this festival is evident. Diverse opinions have come together to create an extraordinary line-up of cinema of the highest quality."

The festival opens at Facets with an 11:00 am special preview of *Vanaja* (India, 2006, 111 min.), the story of a talented dancer who fights class prejudice to succeed. *Vanaja* is followed by the short film program "Angels and Demons," at 1pm, featuring *Sunday Man*, with Peter Coyote and Annie Potts which tells the story of a boy who grows up with an unusual delusion. An hilarious stop-motion animated film, *My Date From Hell*, details the dating disappointments of the devil, while *Fallen Fighter* from Canada provides a powerful portrait of the relationship

between a boxer and his young daughter. The program also includes *Christopher Brennan Saves the World* (USA, 2006, 25 min.), about a "drive-thru guru" dispenses personal advice along with fast food; and *Childhood Scars* (Germany, 2006, 23 min.) which explores an orphan's quest to find her mother.

On Sunday, the festival moves to the state-of-the-art Com-Ed Theatre at the Harold Washington Cultural Center. In the 6:00 pm program "Flashpoint," things aren't always what they seem. In the clever comedy *The Substitute* (Italy, 2006, 15 min.) a mysterious sub shows up, causes chaos, and learns something about integrity from a teenage poet. In *Contact* (Netherlands, 2006, 9 min.), three lives converge in one breakthrough moment, resulting in anger, desperation, and finally love. *Lavatory Lovestory* by acclaimed Russian animator Konstantin Bronzit, reveals the life of lonely lavatory attendant who discovers she has a secret admirer and in "All About Me", a boy's family secrets are revealed as he strives to find his true identity.

The 8:00 pm *Open Screen* at the Harold Washington Cultural Center will welcome local energy to this global affair as Chicago teens ages 15-20 will present their own short films.

According to Siva Romero, 18, MediaBridge participant, "We programmed this festival at the beginning of MediaBridge, and now we can see the films with new eyes. Watching the films again and noticing new things will show us how much we've grown as curators."

For more information about the MediaBridge Program or Festival, please contact Josh Flanders at 773-281-9075, email kidsfest@facets.org, or click [here](#) for more information on the MediaBridge summer youth filmmaking program.

The Illinois Arts Council is the leadership sponsor of the MediaBridge program which is supported by the NEA, the Crystal Fund, Facets Multi-Media, Inc., and Columbia College. MediaBridge is produced in collaboration with the Harold Washington Cultural Center.

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