

MediaBridge YouthFest

Local Teens Strut Their Stuff at Facets Late Night "Open Screen"

Press Release

Time to Put Your Best REEL Forward

Chicago, IL - July 18, 2008 - Calling all Chicagoland youth filmmakers: do you have an original film that you want to share and discuss with fellow film enthusiasts? Then come on down to the MediaBridge YouthFEST **Open Screen** on Friday, August 8 at 11pm, at Facets Multi-Media, Inc., 1517 W. Fullerton.

Youth filmmakers ages 15-19 are invited to participate in the Open Screen as part of the MediaBridge YouthFEST. From 11 p.m. - 1 a.m., films made by MediaBridge participants and youth from around Chicago will debut on the big screen. Films from Mexico and Russia have already been submitted.



(Escapist, Mexico)

"There aren't a lot of public forums where young people can screen their films and talk about them with their peers," said Nicole Dreiske, the Director of Children's Programming. "It's important for these young filmmakers to have a real dialogue with an audience and share their vision."

Youth filmmakers who submit their work must be present at the screening in order to fuel a discussion about the film. At the end of the Open Screen, the audience will vote for their favorite film. The winner will receive \$150 worth of DVDs of their choice from Facets Multi-Media.

"Our youth have so much to say, creativity to share, and ideas to discuss," said Milos Stehlik, Director of Facets Multi-Media. "We just need to provide them with the opportunities to network. The **Open Screen - Late Night Show** at Facets is one of those rare venues that can change a filmmaker's life."

Film submissions should be five to fifteen minutes long in NTSC VHS or DVD

formats.



The Open Screen event will kick off the MediaBridge YouthFEST, scheduled for Saturday, August 9 at the Normal Theatre in Normal, Illinois. Thirteen animated and live action short films from eight countries have been selected for the festival by the MediaBridge jury from among 150 entries submitted to the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

(*Wings*, Russia)

MediaBridge participants include young filmmakers from five countries, Mexico, India, Portugal, Russia, and Sri Lanka, who have worked with teens from Chicago and downstate and western Illinois to organize the festival.

Passes to the Open Screen are \$6.00 or two for \$10.00. Passes may be purchased at Facets or by calling Kidsfest at (773) 281-9075.



MEDIABRIDGE

For more information about the MediaBridge Program or Festival, please contact Kathleen Beckman at 773-281-9075, email kidsfest@facets.org, or visit www.cicff.org for more information on the MediaBridge summer program.

MediaBridge is supported by The Illinois Arts Council - Governor's International Exchange Grant, The Harold Washington Cultural Center, Columbia College Chicago Film & Video Department, the National Endowment for the Arts, MacArthur Foundation, the Crystal Fund, American Airlines, WMAQ - NBC5, Chicago, and Facets Multi-Media.

Submission Requirements:

Who: Filmmakers 15-19

What: Screen your film!

When: Friday, August 8, 2008

Where: Facets Multi-Media, 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. Chicago IL 60614

How: Be present at the screening.

Films: Original films five to 15 minutes in NTSC VHS or DVD

Cost: \$6.00 or \$10.00 for two passes

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Kathleen Beckman
Festival Operations Manager

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Yuri Ozeki
Press Coordinator



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