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Kidsfest Welcomes *Willy Wonka* Director to Chicago **Mel Stuart meets with CPS students at Facets**

Chicago, IL – On Tuesday, February 8th Mel Stuart, director of the classic children's film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, will speak to children attending a special screening of his hit 1971 film at Facets Multimedia (1517 W. Fullerton).

125 students from Oscar Mayer, Alcott and Agassiz schools will fill Facets to view the film and talk to Mr. Stuart after the film screening. Thanks to a generous donation from the Wrightwood Neighbors Association these students received scholarship tickets to the special event, organized by the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. In preparation for the screening and discussion, students are reading the book in their classrooms. "We love bringing in great directors like Mr. Stuart to talk to students," said Nicole Dreiske, Director of Children's Programs, "These discussions give children an opportunity to delve into the minds of filmmakers and helps them demystify the movie-making process."

In *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, Charlie, a good-hearted boy from the poor side of town, is one of five lucky children who wins a chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at the legendary candy factory run by the mysterious Willy Wonka (Gene Wilder).

Facets Multimedia is one of the nation's leading cinematheques, screening 300 films a year and hosting tributes, retrospectives and premieres. Facets produces the Chicago International Children's Film Festival (CICFF), the largest festival of films for children in North America, and the only Academy ® qualifying children's festival in the world. The 22nd Annual CICFF runs from October 26th-November 6th at locations around the city. Coming soon: the CICFF's **Young Chicago Critics** – June 22 through July 1 – an intensive "movie camp" for kids who love movies and love sharing their thoughts and opinions. For information, call (773) 281-2166 or (773) 281-9075 or visit our web site at www.cicff.org.

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