

## Press Release

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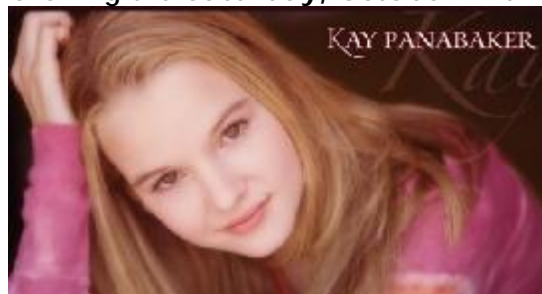
### Teen Celebs Take the Stage At 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival

**October 2 - Chicago, IL** Chicago's Maestro Harrell, 16, returns home to Chicago to host the Gala Opening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival on Thursday, October 18, at the Thorne Auditorium, 325 E. Chicago. Recently featured on MTV'S Sweet 16 this rising star from Chicago's South Side is known for his appearances in *Ali*, *The Wire*, and *ER*. Mr. Harrell is no stranger to the Chicago stage, performing at the Goodman and Congress Theatres with a special appearance at the Chicago Gospel Festival.



Maestro will also be leading a **Take One! Workshop** titled: Take it Away, Maestro! on Sunday, October 28 at Facets Theatre. Kids will have the opportunity to learn how the young star balances movies and TV and just being a teen! Participants can look forward to Maestro's favorite acting tips for kids.

The list moves on to lead Actress Kay Panabaker of *Moondance Alexander* whose recent appearances include: *Nancy Drew*, *7<sup>th</sup> Heaven*, *ER*, and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. A three-time award winning actress at only 17 years old, Ms. Panabaker will be conducting a Q&A session following the **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** screening at Wilmette Theatre. "Kids hear so much about young stars who are in trouble. It's great for young audiences to have the opportunity to interact with teen celebrities who are talented and relatable, but whose lives are in balance," states CICFF founder, Nicole Dreiske.



Closing the festival is teen-supermodel Ashlei Taylor, star of one of the CICFF's most acclaimed films,

***America the Beautiful.*** Represented by the world's famous Elite Model Management, 17-year old Chicago native, Ashlei will be do the honors at the Festival's prestigious Award Ceremony sponsored by American Airlines at the Film Row Theatre, 4:30pm on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Several articles have labeled the young model as "Baby Naomi" for her striking resemblance to supermodel Naomi Cambell.

For more information about the Chicago International Children's Film Festival's programs and workshops, please contact Tiffany Goodman at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, (773) 281-9075, email [kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:kidsfest@facets.org), or log onto our website at [www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org)

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