

CICFF Presents Record Number of Programs Nov.-Dec.

Press Release

Kidsfest Winter Programs Warm Up Schools!

Chicago, IL - November 30, 2007

Through January, the Chicago International Children's Film Festival will bring a record number of programs into Chicago public schools from Daley Academy and Hurley School on the South Side, to Burroughs Elementary, Lafayette and Otis Schools on the North Side. Programs include free in-school screenings of award-winning multicultural films, after-school workshops and "Reel Poetry" events.



Thanks to the CICFF's new partnership with the Poetry Foundation, the highly celebrated *Reel Poetry* program will be presented to school groups through December. Children perform poetry readings then view short films based on the poems just read. Screenings are followed by interactive discussions and creative composition exercises. Intended for middle school students, grades 6-8,

Reel Poetry is available for screening in schools, at Facets Multi-Media in Chicago and at the Wilmette Theater. "Kids love *Reel Poetry* because it uses something very relatable and accessible--film--to give them a new appreciation for poetry," says CICFF Executive Director Nicole Dreiske.

Six in-school screenings are scheduled for top prize winning films, *Leaps and Bounds*, *Labou* and *Kids in Da Hood*. "After the Chicago International Children's Film Festival wraps in November," says Operations Manager Kathleen Beckman, "most people don't realize that we keep going, bringing inspiring films and programs to schools year round!" Screenings are enriched by pre- and post-film discussions with trained media educators, and supported by the CICFF's acclaimed curriculum (provided free to teachers!).

Twenty-five students from Otis School (525 N. Armour) will take their love of poetry one step



further during the Festival's poetry-focused *Dream Screen* animation workshop. From December 10th through 20th, the students will focus on the study, performance and animation of poetry. The after-school workshop culminates in an all-school screening of the students' original short film, based on a classic poem. "Kids really get a creative work-out when they translate written imagery into the visual imagery of film," says CICFF Workshop Leader Jenny Gribble.

In December, Alexander Graham Bell School (3730 N. Oakley) will have the opportunity to chat with an acclaimed filmmaker from their very own city. Chicago-based director Darryl Roberts, whose award-winning documentary *America the Beautiful* was presented to 1,000 students at this year's Festival, will lend his insights to students of Bell School in December. As part of the CICFF's Directors in the Schools program, Roberts will visit 70 Bell students who viewed the film during the Festival. The Chicago native will answer questions about his directing experience, as well as advise budding young filmmakers on the art of moviemaking.



Winter programs run through January. For more information please contact Josh Flanders at kidsfest@facets.org or at 773.281.9075.

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Josh Flanders
CICFF Marketing & Development Coordinator

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.
Lauren Whalen
CICFF Media Education Coordinator

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