

Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI)
SHORT FILM SHOWCASE
Celebrating International Women's Day 2008

9 films – 93 minutes -- List in alphabetical order

A MOMENT / 5 minutes

Director: **Valeria Ruiz** / Peru / New York, USA

Synopsis:

A portrayal of an elderly woman's grief and her memories of intimate moments. This story was inspired by the filmmaker's fear of losing her grandmother. In the process of creating this film, she spoke with many senior women and men about death, love and sex.

Director Bio:

Valeria received her BA in Visual Studies at Lima University in Peru. Post-graduation, her first short film *El Ascensor* (The Elevator) was screened at international film festivals and won several awards. In Peru, Valeria worked as a screenwriter and as a freelance director for television. She was subsequently sponsored by the United Nations Volunteers Odyssey to shoot reports in Thailand, Nepal, Spain, Brazil, USA, Tanzania and Lebanon. She moved to the UK and was awarded a scholarship to the two year MA in Fiction Direction program at the National Film and Television School where she directed several short films currently touring the festival circuit. Valeria recently moved to NYC to continue developing her career as a filmmaker.

Audience Award: Best Short Film at the Brooklyn Film Festival, USA 2007.
Official Selection: NYWIFT/ Hamptons International Film Festival: TO THE POINT 2007
Sao Paulo International Film Festival, Brazil 2007
Los Angeles Short Film Festival, USA2007
Créteil Film Festival, France 2007

BLACK AND WHITE / 17 minutes

Director: **Kirsty MacDonald** / Auckland, New Zealand

Synopsis:

"Oh my God! It's a hermaphrodite!" screams the nurse, moments after Mani Mitchell is born in New Zealand in 1953. *Black and White* is a poignant short documentary created fifty years later, interweaving the stories of intersex activist Mani Mitchell and her potent creative collaboration with acclaimed photographer Rebecca Swan.

Director Bio:

Kirsty is a New Zealand-based filmmaker who completed a Masters in Creative and Performing Arts at the University of Auckland in 2006. In 2007, she worked as Vincent Ward's assistant on the feature documentary-drama *Rain of the Children* and subsequently began work as Niki Caro's assistant on her feature film *The Vintner's Luck*. In March 2008, she will travel to France to begin principal photography of this film, which Kirsty will also document in a "making of" documentary.

She has directed several short award-winning digital documentaries including *Good for a Girl* (2005), a portrait of NZ Women's Boxing Champion and *I Can Read You Like a Book* (2003). Both of these films were awarded Best Director and Best Documentary in the 2004 and 2005 AUSA/AUT 15 Minutes of Fame. She has written two features and is currently directing and editing the feature length documentary *Assume Nothing*.

Winner: Best Short Documentary and Best Emerging Director –
2006 Documentary New Zealand International Film Festival
W.O.W (World of Women) Film Festival, Australia 2007
Winner: Best Short Film – Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, USA 2006

CHINESE DUMPLINGS / 8 minutes

Director: **Michelle Hung** / Los Angeles, USA

Synopsis:

Like so many Chinese American kids, Lucy and Grace would rather be playing outside than practicing violin in their living room. Believing that they especially deserve a break because it's Grace's birthday this day, older sister Lucy goes out of her way to look out for their interests. In the end, the two little girls prove that they will do anything to escape their daily violin practice.

Director Bio:

The American-born daughter of immigrants from Taiwan, writer/director Michelle Hung grew up in Santa Monica, CA. Michelle has received numerous honors, including an Edie & Lew Wasserman Fellowship in Filmmaking and The Caucus Foundation Golden Circle Award for Outstanding Student Film. She earned her B.S. at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and graduated from the MFA Program in Film Directing at UCLA in 2006. Her MFA thesis film, *Chinese Dumplings* was selected for UCLA Directors' Spotlight at the DGA and won the UCLA Best Cinematography Award.

*Winner: Best Cinematography Prize - UCLA Directors' Spotlight at the DGA, USA
Official Selection – Palm Springs International Shorts Festival 2007
Shanghai International Film Festival*

*Nominee, Excellence in Short Filmmaking Award – Cinevision: Asian American Int'l Film Festival
Tribeca Film Festival, USA*

DESIRES / 1:42 minutes

Director: **Kate Jessop** / United Kingdom

www.katejessop.com

Synopsis:

Desires is based on a poem by Gaia Holmes and was originally made for the Adaptation event of the Manchester Literature Festival. Kate likes to approach filmmaking as making moving image collages encompassing various techniques in her work. Desires is a composite of stop frame and drawn animation and live action footage.

Director Bio:

Kate Jessop is a Manchester based artist and filmmaker and is currently artist in residence at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her practice includes experimental film and the visualization of sound encompassing animation and live action. This has recently been contextualized within music videos for various Manchester (UK) artists/labels. She is also a co-founder of the Girls on Film collective.

*St John's International Women's Film Festival (Canada) 2007
Bird's Eye View Film Festival (UK) 2007
Film de Femme (Créteil, France) 2007
Britspotting (Berlin, Germany) 2007*

HAPPINESS / 11 minutes

Director: **Sophie Barthes** / France / New York, USA

Synopsis:

What if happiness was for sale? One evening, after work, Iwona buys a box of happiness in a strange discount store and has to decide what to do with it.

Happiness stars Polish-American screen legend Elzbieta Czyzewska. The New York Anthology Film Archives dedicated a retrospective to her career in May 2005. Elzbieta has acted in more than 40 feature films directed by Polish distinguished directors.

Director Bio:

French-born Sophie Barthes grew up in the Middle East and South America. A Columbia University graduate, she co-directed the short film SNOWBLINK with cinematographer Andrij Parekh and a Unicef documentary in Yemen on women literacy programs. Her award-winning short film HAPPINESS played at Sundance '07 and in more than sixty film festivals. Both HAPPINESS and COLD SOULS, her feature-length screenplay, won the NYSCA Individual Artists Grants and the Showtime Tony Cox Award for Best Screenplay. Sophie completed her residency at the Nantucket Screenwriters' Colony and the 2007 Sundance Directors & Screenwriters Labs. She is currently directing her first feature film COLD SOULS, with Paul Giamatti, David Strathairn and Emily Watson. She lives in New York City.

*Winner: Best Live Action Short under 15 mins – Palm Springs International Short Film Festival 2007
Prague Short Film Festival, Czech Republic 2007
2007 Sundance Film Festival, USA
Austin Film Festival, USA 2007*

MEET-MARKET.CA / 11 minutes

Director: **Geneviève Poulette** / Montreal, Canada

www.meet-market.ca

Synopsis:

Film director Marie-Helene and fashion stylist Zoe have been friends for a long time and single for even longer. Every Friday night, they get together to party and forget their single status. One crazy Friday, they sign up on "Meet-market.ca", an online dating site. From virtual discussions to actual meetings, the girls are faced with one surprise after another... and so are their partners!

Director Bio:

Graduating with a BA in Psychology, Geneviève studied film production at the *Institut National de l'Image et du Son* (INIS) in Montreal. She directed the short fiction film *Jingle* (2001), which won a Public Prize at the FFM, as well as being selected in official competition in many International Festivals (Toronto, Los Angeles, Namur, etc.). After receiving a scholarship in 2002, she traveled to Mexico where she wrote the screenplay and directed the documentary *El mago del Coyoacan*. In 2004, she directed her second short film, *Kafarnaüm*, which was selected in international festivals and sold to SRC, Canada's French language national network. *Meet-market.ca* is her third award-winning short film to date.

*Winner: Gold Remi Award – WorldFest Houston USA, 2007
St. John's International Women's Film Festival (Canada) 2007
Official Competition: Off-courts Trouville, France 2007
Official Competition: Newport Beach Film Festival USA
Official Competition - Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois, Canada, 2007*

ONE HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND / 5 mins, 20 secs.

Director: **Susan Jacobson** / United Kingdom

www.100th.tv

Film Synopsis:

Kate is a talented photojournalist. She risks her life to deliver powerful images to the waiting world until a photograph of a Girl changes her life forever.

Director Bio:

Susan grew up in South Africa and Australia before settling in London. She worked in a variety of areas including production, cinematography, script development and sound before starting her career as a director. She has since successfully directed shorts, music videos and commercials that have won awards, attended over 40 festivals and been broadcast in the UK and around the world.

One Hundredth of a Second was inspired by the bravery of the photojournalists covering the crime in post-apartheid South Africa, as well as a strong interest in the role of the media today.

After writing and directing several short films, Susan is currently writing her feature film, A LOVE STORY, which is in development with Metlab in the UK and which she will also direct.

Official Selection – Palm Springs International Shorts Festival 2007

Winner: Special Jury Prize - Funchal Film Festival, Portugal

Winner: New Producer's Alliance Film of the Month, UK

Winner: Best Short Film - Manhattan Short Film Festival, USA

Nominated – BBC most promising new talent – Bird's Eye View Film Festival, UK

ORCHIDS / 18 minutes

Director: **Bryce Dallas Howard** / Los Angeles, USA

Film Synopsis:

Beatrice is an amateur photographer who leads a simple, solitary life, content to hide behind the lens of her old camera. She spends her afternoons taking photographs in the garden of a lavish mansion near her home, and speculating on its inhabitants. When she stumbles upon a mysterious personal ad left in the mansion's front lawn, Beatrice recognizes a golden opportunity to appease her insatiable curiosity. She decides to answer the ad. Thus begins her bizarre acquaintanceship with Cliff, a wealthy, middle-aged recluse whose eccentric behaviour is as off-putting as it is endearing. As Cliff and Beatrice struggle to overcome their doubts and insecurities, an unlikely romance blossoms.

Director Bio: Bryce Dallas Howard recently starred in SPIDER-MAN 3 for director Sam Raimi. She also starred in Kenneth Branagh's adaptation of AS YOU LIKE IT, in which her performance as Rosalind opposite Kevin Kline and Alfred Molina earned her a Golden Globe nomination. Howard recently wrapped production on the feature film adaptation of the Tennessee Williams' play, THE LOSS OF A TEARDROP DIAMOND.

Howard's additional film credits include the M. Night Shyamalan film, LADY IN THE WATER and the Lars von Trier film, MANDERLAY, the filmmaker's follow-up to DOGVILLE. She made her feature film debut starring in the M. Night Shyamalan film, THE VILLAGE.

ORCHIDS, her directorial debut, is a project she took on as part of Glamour Magazine's *Reel Moments* program. After leaving the Tisch School of the Arts Program at New York University, Howard began working on the New York stage, including the role of Marianne in the Roundabout's Broadway production of TARTUFFE, Rosalind in the Public Theatre's AS YOU LIKE IT, Sally Platt in the Manhattan Theatre Club's production of Ayckbourn's HOUSE/GARDEN and as Emily in the Bay Street Theater Festival production of OUR TOWN.

Official Selection – Palm Springs International Shorts Festival 2007

Glamour Magazine: Reel Moments 2006

SEXY THING / 14 minutes

Director: **Denie Pentecost** / Australia

Producer: **Heather Oxenham**

www.sexything.com.au

Synopsis:

On a dry, suburban day, one child's secrets can be seen forever...

Director Bio:

Denie started her creative career studying sculpture and photography at the Australian National Art School in Sydney. She completed a three year diploma in fine arts and transferred these skills into her first job as a standby props person on an Australian television series. Over the past six years, she has expanded her experience by working on films such as Jane Campion's *Holy Smoke*; *Garage Days*; *Mission Impossible II* and *Matrix II and III*.

During this time, she completed a number of director's assignments and courses, namely at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. *Sexy Thing* is her debut as a writer/director.

Official Selection – Shorts Competition : Festival de Cannes, France 2006

W.O.W (World of Women) Film Festival, Australia 2007

Seattle International Film Festival, USA 2007

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