



2007 SILVER LAKE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILM SERIES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Cuban Music, Indie Indian Cinema, Conspiracy Theories, Urban Sustainability, Erotic Arthouse Films Are Among The Subjects Tackled In The Festival's Signature, Free-Wielding Curated Programming

LOS ANGELES, CA [April 15, 2007] – The 7th annual Silver Lake Film Festival – Los Angeles' leading independent-alternative film and arts festival – announced today its signature film series and panels – always among the most provocative programming at the festival and certainly reflective of the eclectic Eastside vibe.

From May 3rd until May 12th, 2007, Silver Lake Film Festival will screen more than 200 narrative and documentary features, and short films and videos. The West Coast premiere of “Fay Grim,” the latest film by director Hal Hartley, starring Parker Posey and Jeff Goldblum, has been tapped for the Opening Night Gala. Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, co-directors of “Little Miss Sunshine,” are among this year's festival honorees. Its parallel MusicFest, featuring music documentaries and live musical performances, will be presented for the first time by ASCAP and will showcase leading recording acts performing live in an intimate club setting, including the legendary Circle Jerks as well as Dengue Fever, 400 Blows. Sea Wolf and The Bird and The Bee.

The curated series this year delve into many emerging genres in the progressive film scene exemplified by the Silver Lake area. The films in the **Sustainable LA** series highlight ways to make a positive difference in our surroundings and to take on the important environmental issues of the day. **Artrotica** explores the continuing trend of sex in cinema. The **Secret Histories of Us and Them** looks at those ideas labeled conspiracy theories that are often marginalized by the mainstream yet still find a following with those looking for explanations outside the official story. **Eastern Mosaic** showcases emerging talent in the area of Indian cinema. **Cuban Music in Film** focuses on the rich cultural harvest that can be seen in the unique music of the island. **MP4Fest** examines the growing number of films using cutting edge technologies. Art, activism and alternative ideas are all on display in the **Fringe Fest** series. **Family Fest** offers youth-focused films and family friendly activities.

The panel discussions will be both educational and entertaining. The **Film Financing Panel** offers advice on many aspects of financing, distribution and negotiation. **Indie Writing in a Studio World** includes experienced panelists including Oscar-nominee Josh Olson (A History of Violence) and Stephen Susco (The Grudge 1 and 2). **Sustainable LA** will discuss sustainable urban living situation, featuring activists including Ed Begley, Jr. and Alicia Silverstone. **Film + Architecture** discusses the collision of architecture and cinema. **Get To Know the Guilds** is an introduction to the indie filmmaker programs offered by top guilds. **Porn – Past, Present and Future** explores the history and evolution of adult film. **New Frontiers in Digital Distribution for Indie Filmmakers** reveals the emerging alternatives to traditional film distribution. **No Budget Filmmaking** discusses how to make a micro-budget work for you. **Using Digital Media to Build Community and Promote Your Film** looks at the myriad ways to promote a film outside of traditional means.

The films for the curated series include:

SUSTAINABLE LA

This series combines films, panel discussions and an eco-expo with an eye toward showing individuals and community members how to making positive contributions to their environment and empowering them to take on wider ecological issues.

Everything's Cool (USA, 2006) Award winning documentary filmmakers Daniel Gold and Judith Helfand weave an entertaining, character-driven tale about global warming. Against a backdrop of denial, deception and delay, a group of global-warming messengers fervently searches for the right language and strategy to propel a reluctant, disaster-fatigued citizenry and its elected officials into action. Intercut through this strikingly shot journey are the trials and tribulations of individuals and communities dealing with growing environmental problems that affect them directly.

The Power of Community (USA, DATE?) After the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba lost over half of its oil imports and survived by transitioning to different ways of doing business. Directed by Faith Morgan and Pat Murphy, this documentary explores Cuba's transformation from a highly industrial society to a sustainable one, becoming a living example of how a country can successfully traverse what we all will have to deal with sooner or later.

Freedom Fuels (USA, DATE?, playing with The Power of Community) This documentary from director Martin O'Brien takes an in-depth look at renewable fuel sources, such as bio-diesel, ethanol and vegetable oil. It explores the interaction of the petroleum industry and alternative fuels over the last 150 years and examines the global impact that bio-fuels can have on our future, including issues of unsustainable methods for producing them.

Short Films Program

TreePeople Campus
Survive LA: Build a Self Watering Bucket
Elon Schoenholz: Backyard Composting
Path to Freedom
Surfrider Foundation
Northeast trees/Kids: LA River
Midnight Ridazz/Wolf Pack
Matrushka Construction

Cold Storage
Edible Estates
Sundown Schoolhouse
South Central Farm
Not A Cornfield/Farmlab
Green Ambassadors

ARTROTICA

Sex has been part of cinema ever since Edison's "The Kiss" was first screened for scandalized audiences. Since then, adult films have evolved past being a strictly underground genre relegated to men's clubs and bars. This series explores the erosion of the clear line between porn and art cinema.

Café Flesh (USA, 1982, combined with selected shorts) This groundbreaking early attempt to merge art and pornography is a bizarre, strangely prescient film that practically attacks the audience. The story takes place in the near future. A nuclear war has left 99 percent of the population unable to have sex. The remaining 1 percent are forced by the government to have sex on stage for the benefit of the rest.

Alt Porn (Includes selections from several films) Alt Porn is a new style of pornography, eschewing the traditional ideals of adult film. It incorporates elements of performance art and avant-garde film techniques with depictions of hardcore sexual encounters. This program features selections from "Art School Sluts," "Silverlake Scenesters," "The Rebelle Rousers," "Barbed Wire Kiss," "Eastside Story," "Girls Lie" and "Man's Ruin."

Contemporary Features: "The Book of Revelation" (Australia) 2006) The second feature from director Ana Kokkinos, this erotic horror story is set in the most unlikely of milieus – the rarefied world of modern dance. In Melbourne, a dancer-choreographer, on his way to purchase a pack of cigarettes on the opening night of a new dance performance in which he stars, is abducted by three hooded women who keep him chained as a sex slave in a room for 18 days. That the director makes her victim males and the perpetrators female tackles head on the subject of male-female dynamics in sex and power.

Art+Porn features hardcore pornographic films which artists and musicians have reversioned to create new hybrid works, which are both art and pornography. The program includes "Bacchanale," a 1970's erotic feature to which contemporary sound artists have added their own soundtrack. The program also includes "Burn" and Removed, two art videos that also use 1970s vintage porn as a concrete source material, and selections from "Artslut," a rare collection of vintage homemade fetish videos.

THE SECRET HISTORIES OF US & THEM

Conspiracy cinema reveals the hidden truths about the world and ourselves. America has always looked for the hidden mechanisms that manipulate our world. Some look deeply enough to discover stories that make us uncomfortable even as they lead us to other possible understandings of our lives. 'Secret Histories' takes a look at the stories we're telling ourselves about the authorities who are telling us quite different tales.

Improbable Collapse (USA, 2005) Taking a look at the catastrophe of 9/11 from a scientific perspective, this documentary from Michael Berger examines the realities of civil engineering and the collapse of the World Trade Center. The film explores many expert findings which have been ignored by official investigations and presents a credible alternative theory of the events of September 11, 2001.

The Lives and Ideas of Robert Anton Wilson (USA, 2005) Written and directed by Lance Bauscher, this documentary explores the life of Robert Anton Wilson, author of numerous books including the infamous "Illuminatus! Trilogy." Called "a fairy tale for paranoiacs," his novel moved many elements of modern conspiracy theory from the far fringes of the underground into popular culture.

America: Freedom to Fascism (USA, 2006) Determined to find the law that requires Americans to pay income tax, director Aaron Russo set out on a journey that exposes the systematic erosion of civil liberties in America. Russo connects the dots between money creation, federal income tax, voter fraud, the national

ID card and the implementation of radio frequency ID technology to track citizens. A striking case about the evolving police state in America.

EASTERN MOSAIC: NEW INDIAN CINEMA

Indian cinema has been the biggest film industry in the world since the mid-1970's, yet it has been largely ignored by Western film historians, theorists and audiences. It's evolution in recent decades has produced films with a certain aesthetic sensibility, political awareness and engagement with India political realities, in which the hero is an ordinary man or woman having to deal with the pressures of everyday living.

Rang De Basanti (India, 2006) This film from director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra was India's official entry for Best Foreign Language Film in the 2006 Academy Awards. It tells the story of a young, idealistic English filmmaker who comes to India encounters jaded, materialistic students who are helping with her project. As the group learns more about the history of the Independence movement, they begin to lose their cynicism and must eventually decide whether to retreat into their former docility or to emulate the spirit of their freedom fighter ancestors.

Parineeta (India, 2005) This latest film from veteran filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra tells the story of Lolita (Vidya Balan), neighbor, friend and lover of wealthy young Shekhar (Saif Ali Khan), whose father wants to seize the crumbling mansion of Lolita's family. When Lolita comes to learn of the nefarious scheme of Shekhar's father, she urges her uncle to seek help from a wealthy benefactor Girish (Sanjay Dutt), whose appearance creates an enormous misunderstanding between Lolita and Shekhar. Angered, Shekhar turns into the cold, calculating businessman he once professed to hate.

Swades (India, 2004) The film from Ashutosh Gowariker dramatically portrays how the efforts of a single individual working at a grassroots level can eventually change the lives of many. Mohan (Shahrukh Khan), a scientist working at NASA, returns to India to find his childhood nanny, Kaveramma (Kishori Balal), and bring her back to America. Upon tracing her a remote village, Mohan finds himself in a world that stands as the polar opposite to his American lifestyle. Within this glum arena, local schoolteacher Gita (Gayatri Joshi) toils hard, hoping to create change for the better, and defies Mohan's efforts to persuade Kaveramma to return with him to the United States.

Lakshya (India, 2004) In this film from Farhan Akhtar, Karan Shergil (Roshan) is a young man who has no actual goal ("lakshya") in mind for his future. After his girlfriend, Romi (Zinta), tells him he needs to find a goal in life, Karan enrolls in the Indian Military Academy, but his first days there are a disaster. He must find his mettle and endeavors to become a courageous leader in a war-time situation.

CUBAN MUSIC IN FILM

The rich history and myriad influences that went into the formation of the world's most unique set of musical styles can be heard in the energy, diversity and vivacity of Cuban music itself. This series will provide a window into the extensive field of films about Cuban music, films that are as contradictory and fascinating as the music itself.

Una Noche De Cachao A tribute to the life's work of Grammy-winner Isreal Lopez Cachao, considered to be the most important Cuban musician living today. Includes "Mambo Mass Rehearsal," a quick view of the historic Mambo Mass concert in 2000, and "Ahora Si!," a behind the scenes look at the recording session of the fourth installment of Cachao's master sessions under the CineSon label. This program also includes "Cachao: Como Su Ritmo No Hay Dos" (USA, 1993), Andy Garcia's loving tribute to the legendary Cuban composer and bassist, filmed as a concert of the great Cachao himself.

Los Zafiros: Locura Azul Cuba (LOCATION?, 1997) The first Cuban-American film made since 1959, this film presents the history of Cuba's first original doo-wop band, named after the sparkling sapphire on the ring of one of its founding members. Emerging in the early 1960s, Los Zafiros continued to reign into the 1970s when the band separated and disappeared.

Los Zafiros: Music From the Edge of Time (USA, 1997) Music, history, and emotion fuel this dynamic, award-winning tribute to Los Zafiros. Thirty years after their breakup, the two surviving band members – multiple-Grammy winner and Buena Vista Social Club alumnus Manuel Galbán, and the group’s co-founder, Miguel Cancio – reunite in the streets of present-day Havana, a place full of unforgettable songs and memories for them and for their still-loyal fans. Evocative archival films and recordings of Los Zafiros are interwoven with newsreel footage that vividly parallels the Los Zafiros story with life in Cuba at the height of the Cold War.

MP4FEST

From the power of digital distribution to the creative uses of new media, digital media and digital film are mediums that have fast become the new creative vanguard, whose limits are being stretched every day. This second annual edition of MP4Fest includes an exhibition of MP4-based experimental and narrative short films curated by Current TV, a new genres animation program curated by Hal Forsstrom, a Machinima program curated by Peter Brinson and a Flash animation program online at www.silverlakefilmfestival.org.

Perpetual Motion – The Independent Edge of Animation

Animation always treads the genre-bending line of new genre and entertainment. MP4Fest presents the new crop of international animators redefining the medium through new digital techniques and the creative application of old ones. Includes thirteen animated shorts.

Machinima Shorts

Our second annual Machinima showcase brings together the worlds of cinema and role-playing video games by combining the language of filmmaking with game technologies that personalize every aspect of the production process. Includes nine short films.

Flash Animation – Online Content

Every three months in 2006, MP4Fest selected one Flash animation film to screen on the www.silverlakefilmfestival.org website. During the course of the festival, all four Flash animations will be available for viewing on www.silverlakefilmfestival.org's website at the same time. Includes animation from Heather Poon, Tawd b. Dorenfield, Mark Reid and Sassycorp Collective.

FRINGE FEST

FringeFest is the experimental arm of the festival where arts and entertainment programs on the creative edge are showcased. Sometimes they use film as a catalyst; always they redefine the boundaries of conventional thought.

Catching Up With James Beinning: The California Trilogy (TO BE CONINUED)

FAMILY FEST

This series offers a day of family friendly fun. Live music, DJ, dance, a display of auto art, a recycled music workshop and free trees all accompany a day of experimental and thought provoking short films selected from around the world.

Found Sounds Bahia, (USA, 2007)

This short film from David Zucker introduces us to the Brazilian youth group LACTOMIA which takes discarded materials and makes music, costumes and art that bridges the economic and racial divides and rebuild his community.

Downtime Jax (Australia, 2002)

This delightful and infectious animated dance film is a ferris wheel ride through family life from the point of view of the second child who must save the rest of her family from itself.

Prince Cinders (Great Britain, DATE)

An outrageous take on the classic fairy tale where the PRINCE can't make it to the ball, left at home by his big mean stepbrothers.

Boy (Great Britain, 1995)

A boy creates his own world of superheroes as he moves with playful agility through an empty coastal landscape.

Linnea in Monet's Garden (Sweden, 1993)

A charming tale of a little girl's love affair with the paintings of French Impressionist Claude Monet and her travels to discover the real places that served as inspiration for her favorite painter.

Lights, Camera, Education!

Fifth Graders from Ivanhoe Elementary

The young local Fifth Graders filmmakers will also premiere the short films they've made as part of the AFI's school filmmaking program called "**Lights, Camera, Education!**" which serves children in kindergarten through high school. The program is designed as a classroom tool where teachers use filmmaking as a method of engaging students in the learning process.

Hiroshima No Pika (Japan/US, 2005)

Narrated by Susan Sarandan, this documentary based on the award winning children's book by the Japanese artist Toshi Maruki tells the story of a young girl and her family who live through the horrific bombing of Hiroshima.

Surviving 7th Grade(USA, 2005)

Best friends Kim and Dara endure the humiliations of 7th grade with a little help from a 6-year-old DJ, a 20-year-old stereo, some fierce moves and a rockin' beat.

Skylab (USA, 2005)

In the hazy summer of 1979, SKYLAB, the largest vehicle ever hurled into space is slipping from orbit and could crashing to earth at any moment. No one, including NASA can confirm exactly where or when the pieces will fall except twelve year old Benji.

Deadtime Stories with Mariachi Goose and Friends (USA, 2007)

Act II of an animated Mariachi Opera in Spanglish and other idiomas. Meet Humpty Mariachi Dumpty, Jack & Jill, So White and the Seven Deadly Dwarves, Rapunzel, and the Diva Big Bad Wolf.

The 2007 Silver Lake Film Festival is under the direction of Kate Marciniak, Greg Ptacek and Saskia Wilson-Brown and produced by the passion, talent and energy of an extraordinary group of volunteers. This year's festival is made possible by the generous contributions of our sponsors, including ASCAP, CBS Outdoor, Charter Communications, Crushed Planet, First Independent Pictures, Five Star Theatres The Echo and EchoPlex, Karl Strauss Beer, Kodak, Magnolia Pictures, MusicPlus TV, Mr. T. J. Singh and Trailer Park.

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*** Artwork and photos are available for download at www.slffmedia.com ***

For more information on the 7th Annual Silver Lake Film Festival, please visit:
<http://www.silverlakefilmfestival.org>.

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ABOUT SILVER LAKE FILM FESTIVAL

Silver Lake Film Festival, a nonprofit arts organization, was established in 2000 to provide a showcase for truly independent-alternative films in the entertainment capital of the world. Seven years later, the festival has evolved into Los Angeles' leading independent film, music & art festival, and the only major media arts event in the city's hip and burgeoning Eastside, which includes silver lake, Los Feliz, Echo Park, Hollywood and Downtown.