

THE BOROUGH SHINES BRIGHT AS QUEENS HOSTS SIXTH ANNUAL QUEENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Showcasing over 100 Independent Films, QIFF Launches First Annual Youth Initiative to Introduce Queens-Area Students to the World of Filmmaking

October 16, 2008 (Queens, NY) – **The Sixth Annual Queens International Film Festival (QIFF), taking place Thursday, November 6th through Sunday, November 9th, 2008 at the Crown Plaza LaGuardia Hotel**, invites New Yorkers to celebrate the best independent films from around the globe. This year's festival will offer over 100 film screenings—including several Academy Award entries and Sundance picks—featuring the work of talented filmmakers from Ireland to Australia, South America to the Middle East, Japan to our very own Queens, New York.

As part of its commitment to bringing the magic and miracle of filmmaking to the people of Queens, QIFF is also launching its first annual Youth Initiative as a part of this year's festivities. The Youth Initiative offers Queens-area students the opportunity to learn about various forms of media by attending screenings, participating in panel discussions lead by luminaries from all facets of the industry including film, radio and television, and creating their own original pieces for awards and recognition.

This year's festival will also include an all-new panel titled "Marketing and Distributing your Independent Film," as well as the second installment of last year's popular "Women in Film" panel, exploring the challenges and concerns facing women filmmakers in a traditionally patriarchal industry. "Our mission is not only to create an event that appeals to the industry," says QIFF President Marie Castaldo, "but to create an event that celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity of Queens by bringing talented filmmakers and the general public together for an unforgettable experience."

In addition to scheduled film screenings, attendees of this year's program will enjoy a series of exciting events including book signings, screenplay readings, art exhibits, gala parties, panel discussions and a free musical and dance performances. Please find additional details below. For more information on the festival, updates and ticket purchase, please find www.queensfilmfestival.com. Complete schedule of events and films is attached.

WHAT: The Sixth Annual Queens International Film Festival will return to Queens Thursday, November 6 – Sunday, November 9, 2008. Event highlights include the following:

WHO: Actor Joe Estevez, Nancy Spielberg, Director Andrzej Krakowski, Director David Modigliani, Director Jay Bonansinga, Director Johnny Wu, Billy Mulligan, Director Robert Sarnoff, Actor Nick Hardin, Director Adam Matalon, Director Gary Ugarek, Actor Eric Rosenberg, Vincent Pastore and many more.

WHEN: Thursday, November 6th to Sunday November 9th, 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Midnight

WHERE: The Crowne Plaza LaGuardia Hotel
104-04 Ditmars Blvd. East
Elmhurst, NY 11369
(718) 457-6300
<http://www.cplaguardia.com/>

WHY: The Sixth Annual Queens International Film Fest will include a lineup of over 100 films & screenplays created by the most talented independent filmmakers from around the world.

COST: Short Films: \$4:00; Feature Films: \$8:00 (day rate) \$10.00 (as of 5:pm); Events, Concerts, Book Signings, Art Exhibits: FREE