

SEVENTH ANNUAL QUEENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

September 25, 2009 (Queens, NY) – This year marks the seventh edition of the Queens International Film Festival taking place in Astoria, Queens and surrounding locations November 12-15. Over the years we have experienced a tremendous growth that has had a positive impact on the entire Queens borough, both economically and in tremendous worldwide media publicity. The 2009 Festival will continue to showcase the Borough of Queens, to a national and international audience of tens of thousands of moviegoers.

Besides showcasing filmmakers from all over the world, QIFF also has the very successful QIFF Youth Program that includes among the participating schools, the Frank Sinatra School of Arts, the O.W.N. Charter School and the Renaissance School in collaboration with Queens Theater In the Park. It is noteworthy to mention that QIFF in its entirety, because of its educational focus, is accredited by the US Department of Education.

This year's awards will be given to Queens native Martin 'Marty' Kove, of Bayside, Queens and Martin Van Buren HS. Martin will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for his prodigious acting resume and charitable work. Also among this year's honorees will be the internationally renowned, award-winning Turkish actress Meltem Cumbul and star of the European and American screen, much sought after Italian actor Francesco Quinn, son of acting legend Anthony Quinn.

Besides screening hundreds of movies, shorts, animations and music videos at multiple venues there will be a Women In Film Symposium, workshops for filmmakers and screenwriters, focus on the thriving independent filmmakers of Guatemala, a recognition of the movies produced by the cutting edge film group Cavu Pictures, a musical tribute in honor of music legend Levon Helm with special surprise guests, world premiere of the movie 'Carpet Racers' produced by Pittsburgh's Michael Rooney and a spotlight on up-and-coming movie makers Alex and Carlos Freitas and their production company Freitas Films. We also continue the highly acclaimed aforementioned QIFF Youth Program in affiliation with Queens Theater In the Park. We are very fortunate to have the support and co-operation of the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts that will hold the Festival's opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the 'Carpet Racers' movie premiere, at the 800 seat state-of-the-art Tony Bennett Auditorium. Finally multiple social events at various venues including the Island, the Rooftop at the Ravel Luxury Boutique Hotel in Long Island City, The Studio Square Beer Garden and Bizaare Ave Cafe with more to come.

There is a long and substantial list of film professionals that have benefited from participation in the Queen Film Festival and we will continue to provide a world-class stage for the future success stories of the film industry