

## **For Immediate Release**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Queens International Film  
1 Festival Youth Initiative  
3 schools  
4 films  
48 hours  
2009

The 2009 Queens International Film Festival – QIFF - will again include a Youth Initiative, an element specifically designed to encourage young filmmakers. In collaboration with the Renaissance Charter School (Jackson Heights), Our World Neighborhood Charter School (Astoria), and the Frank Sinatra School for the Arts (Astoria) we will create 4 short student films on the theme: “My Queens”. Even though the initiative takes place over the course of several weeks, we will complete the films in a total of 48 working hours and the finished short films will be screened at the QIFF awards ceremony on November 15.

This program will be facilitated by long time Queens resident and award winning filmmaker Don Cato and his wife, Katha Cato, Dir. After-School and Camp Services at Henry Street Settlement. The Catos, QIFF filmmakers and other NY filmmakers will immerse students in pre- and post- production experiences as they write, produce and shoot their original shorts.

The time line is as follows:

### **October 12 – 31:**

Filmmaker residency programs in all three schools conducting pre-production workshops that culminate in short films on the theme: “My Queens”. The young people assume all production roles, write, produce and shoot 2 – 3 minute short films.

### **November 7 at 7:00 pm**

The wonderful Campagnola, located at 36-02 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Astoria (11106) host a Family Pizza Night. Families may order pizzas for a family style dinner or choose from a price fix menu. The QIFF Director/Founder will open the evening with a proclamation from Councilman Avilla and we will screen work from previous years, create a story station where people can record their response to the theme and we will raffle festival passes.

### **November 12 – 15**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Queens International Film Festival in a variety of Queens venues including Frank Sinatra School for the Arts, STUDIO SQUARE and others. During the festival, the young people attend and introduce films, attend screenings, mingle with filmmakers from around the world. (Please see: <http://www.queensfilmfestival.com/> for more information)

### **November 14, 9:00 – 10:30 am**

The 7th Annual QIFF Youth Initiative Panel with Francisco Quinn (Actor/Producter) Jim Jermanok (writer/producer) and others engage in 90 minute QA/discussion with the young people and their families.

### **On November 15, 7:30pm**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual QIFF Awards Ceremony at Frank Sinatra High School. Youth Initiative participants are honored, their work will open the evening and they will act as envelop runners for remainder of the ceremony.

For more information on the Youth Program: Don and Katha Cato: [Kcato@henrystreet.org](mailto:Kcato@henrystreet.org) / 917-562-9648

For more information on the Queens International Film Festival: [info@queensfilmfestival.com](mailto:info@queensfilmfestival.com) / 347 439 6592