

COUNTINGDOWN.COM

Countdown to Film Festival & Award Show Forum

July 7, 2008

4th annual HollyShorts Film Festival August 7th!Submitted by: [Kit-Kat](#)

The 4th annual HollyShorts Film Festival (HSFF) kicks off on Thursday, August 7, 2008 with a marquee opening night celebration featuring a number of high profile short film projects. The opening night event, which takes place at the Egyptian Theatre in conjunction with the American Cinematheque, will feature director Bill Purple's short film "Hole in the Paper Sky," which stars Jessica Biel ("I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"), and Gary Marshall ("The Other Sister"); Wireimage co-founder Jeff Vespa's short "Nosebleed," which stars David Arquette ("Scream") and director Alex Ferrari's short film "Red Princess Blues Animated: The Book of Violence" voiced by Paula Garcés ("Harold & Kumar"). The event will also showcase the Hollywood premiere of actor Josh Brolin's ("No Country For Old Men," "American Gangster") short film "X."

The HollyShorts opening night celebration will also feature the Hollywood premiere of actor Larry Hankin's ("Friends") short film "The Outlaw Emmett Deemus" and director/radio personality Marty Keegan's Award-winning short film "Verboten."

Friday, August 8, will mark the festival's inaugural HollyShorts Music Video celebration, showcasing clips from some of the world's fastest rising new music video directors at Nacional in Hollywood.

The film festival core screenings and industry panels take place at Laemmle Sunset 5 theatres Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10.

"We are stepping up our Hollywood presence in a major way this year with a marquee opening night celebration in conjunction with the American Cinematheque, a new music video category and an official lineup of high profile short films," said HollyShorts Film Festival director and co-founder Daniel Sol. "With networking events, super-panels and after-parties accompanying our strong lineup, we look forward to providing filmmakers, movie enthusiasts and industry executives a platform to unite, do business and have a great time!"

Recently Ranked as one of MovieMaker Magazine's Top 25 Film Festivals worth the entry fee, HollyShorts received over 650 submission from 25 countries for the 2008 edition of the HollyShorts Film Festival, a festival record. Along with a strong domestic presence, the 4th annual HollyShorts Film Festival will feature a slew of shorts from the international community, with 11 countries represented.

Vying for the Best Student Short Film Award, HollyShorts has selected student projects from: Cal State Northridge, UCLA, USC, Chapman Film School, Savannah College of Art and Design, Binghamton State University of New York, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, New York Film Academy, AFI, and Temple. The Best Student Short Film Award will win a 5-day HVX-200, HD Camera rental package from festival sponsor Martini Crew Booking.

Tickets for the August 7, 2008 HollyShorts opening night celebration on go on sale on July 21 and can be purchased on HollyShorts.com or through the American Cinematheque at Fandango.com. Tickets for the August 9-10

HollyShorts programs at Laemmle Sunset 5 go on sale July 7 and can be purchased by visiting the B-Side section of www.hollyshorts.com or www.laemmle.com. Special festival passes and group packages available.

Below is the official slate of short films for the 2008 HollyShorts Film Festival:

HollyShorts Opening Night Celebration Official Selections (Not in Competition)

Hole in the Paper Sky

Run time: 33 min. | USA |

Directed by Bill Puple. Stars Jessica Biel ("I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"), Gary Marshall ("The Other Sister")

Drama. Howard Ferp is a brilliant, misanthropic mathematics doctoral candidate. Just as he is about to complete his thesis and win the city-wide chess tournament, his carefully calculated life is turned upside down when he learns that his work study position has been eliminated. Forced to start a new job in the psychology department, Howard encounters two kindred spirits, his supervisor Karen and a doomed laboratory dog. Howard risks everything he thought important to save the animal and, in doing so, discovers his humanity.

Nosebleed

Run time: 9 min. | USA |

Directed by Jeff Vespa. Stars David Arquette ("Scream")

A man tries to get rid of a nosebleed with disastrous effects. Jeff Vespa is an artist, celebrity photographer and Co-founder of the digital photographic agency WireImage. He is also responsible for the creation of the WireImage Portrait Studio that has become an integral part of the independent film festivals worldwide. Previously Vespa produced "Rituals" a film starring Regina King and Isaiah Washington that screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and "The Cage" starring Michelle Trachtenberg.

The Outlaw Emmett Deemus

Run time: 8 min. | USA |

Directed by Larry Hankin ("Friends," "Seinfeld")

Motorcycle Comedy. 'Don Quixote' on a motorcycle. A retired elderly gentleman (Emmett Deemus) wants to live the life of an outlaw biker. He's just bought a funky old '57 BMW motorcycle with a sidecar, 'and jumped into the wind to protect road pilgrims, fight the man, and make some news'. After picking up a lady who's car has run out of gas on a deserted country road, he tries to impress her with his 'outlaw creds' on the way to a gas station. As if calling his bluff, they're attacked by a gang of Real Outlaw Bikers - and, with the help of The Lady, The Old Guy wins, probably.

Red Princess Blues Animated: The Book of Violence

Run time: 7 min. | USA |

Directed by Alex Ferrari, voice by Paula Garces ("Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay")

Animation. Red Princess Blues Animated: The Book of Violence is an animated short film prequel to Alex Ferrari's upcoming feature film Red Princess Blues. In this tale we meet a 12 year old little girl who finds herself in a strange country looking for her father. She is then taken in by a "unique" looking man who goes by Nino. She soon discovers the "Book of Violence" and slowly begins her journey that one day will lead to vengeance.

Verboten

Run time: 14 min. | USA |

Directed by Martin Keegan

Thriller. Laura Hagen is the only beauty in Todd Gorman's life. Unfortunately, Laura also happens to be his

abusive father's bewitching girlfriend. When Todd's odd behavior drives Laura away, the lonely teenager embarks on a menacing quest to find something lovely for himself.

"X"

Run time: 15 min. | USA |

Directed by Josh Brolin ("No Country For Old Men," "American Gangster") Hollywood premiere. Drama. An inmate escapes prison to reunite with his daughter and searches for her murdered mother in order to ultimately exhume her body and give her a proper burial.

Written, Directed and Produced by Josh Brolin, starring Eden Brolin as Jasmine, Eleanor Lambert as Pretty Girl and Vincent Riverside as Jack with Cinematography by John 'Fest' Sandau, Editing by Katie Mcquerrey and Camera/Electrical by James F. Conick. "X" was produced by Brolin Productions.

2008 HollyShorts Film Festival Official Selections (All in Competition)

Agnieszka 2039

Run time: 12 min. | Poland | Sci Fi

Directed by Martin Gauthreau

A fantastic view from the future of Poland.

A Day's Work

Run time: 14:33 | Czech Republic | Drama

Directed by Edward Feldman

Anna's work day begins badly and culminates in one very special, unique moment.

A Letter to Colleen

Run time: 08:36 | USA | Animation

Directed by Carolyn London

Andy London has been haunted by the events of his 18th birthday for years. In this short animated film set in the early 90's, he writes a letter to Colleen in an attempt to put his demons to rest.

Barrio Thief

Run time: 16:22 | USA | Student: Drama (California State University Northridge)

Directed by Michelle Mizner

A story about imagination transcending any boundary, Barrio Thief depicts a mother and son facing the grim realities of a highly contagious disease.

Beholden

Run time: 25:30 | USA | Student: Drama (Chapman Film School)

Directed by David Jibladze

Anna must choose between the life of her love and the future of her child she desperately struggles to ensure.

Bloom

Run time: 12:57 | USA | Drama

Directed by Lance Larson

The only things standing between a Rent-A-Cop and true love are the guard dogs on a used-car lot.

Carissa

Run time: 23:00 | USA | Documentary

Today Carissa Phelps is earning a law degree and an MBA from UCLA. But when she was twelve, she was

homeless and forced into prostitution in Fresno. Carissa recounts her story.

Casper & Kitty

Run time: 05:20 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Franco Parente

An erotically tongue in cheek recount of a relationship gone bad plays out in the mind of a broken playboy.

Collector

Run time: 14:01 | USA | Thriller

Directed by Dempsey Tillman

Stars the late Brad Renfro ("The Client", "Apt Pupil", "Bully"). Justin Sayer struggles with a mental illness that has consumed his life.

Come Back To Sudan

Run time: 29:00 | Sudan, USA | Documentary

Directed by Daniel Junge

Documentary following three "Lost Boys" of Sudan and their adoptive American mother as they journey home to their war-torn country.

Creating Discourse

Run time: 28:15 | USA | Student: Drama (Savannah College of Art and Design)

Directed by Clint Litton

In a haze of transitions, past relationships, and creative energy, two people come together only to face moving apart.

Deletes

Run time: 15:01 | India, USA | Documentary

Directed by Jon Van Dyke

250 million Dalits suffer everyday in India. Who will be their voice for freedom?

Diner

Run time: 08:30 | USA | Student: Animation (Binghamton State University of New York)

Directed by John Wilson

In this retro-mechanical fairy tale, a love-struck amalgamation of kitchen utensils attempt to finally come together as a diner closes for the evening.

Easy Money

Run time: 15:00 | USA | Student: Thriller (New York Film Academy)

Directed by Lauren Pena

A naive girl's best friend intentionally volunteers her to babysit in a household with a pro-curious lifestyle. Throughout the night she discovers the dark side of the family's relationship, only to find herself questioning her own conscience.

El Primo (The Cousin)

Run time: 16:00 | USA | Drama

Directed by Nick Oceano

A sheltered, sensitive teenager visits his tough, older cousin in Laredo, Texas and learns a hard lesson about what it means to be a man.

First _____

Run time: 10:00 | USA | Documentary

Directed by Dave Laden

Are we really all the same? Or different? You decide.

Gandhi at the Bat

Run time: 11:00 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Steph Argy and Alec Bohem

Gandhi at the Bat is a newsreel-style account of the little-known (and totally fictional) incident when Mohandas K. Gandhi pinch-hit for the New York Yankees in 1933.

Hero The Great

Run time: 21:00 | USA | Drama

Directed by Juan Caceres

Life can't get any worse for Hero until he finds himself resurrecting a friendship, recovering love and saving his soul in the dawn of the summer blues.

I Fking Hate You**

Run time: 9:00 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Zak Forsman

A young man forms an ill-conceived scheme to redeem himself in the eyes of his ex-girlfriend.

I Kicked Luiz Guzman In The Face

Run time: 20:46 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Sherwin Shilati

A young man gains online celebrity after fabricating a story about how he beat up the actor Luis Guzman.

La Botte De Guerre (The Boot of War)

Run time: 28:52 | France | Drama

Directed by Reda Mustafa

During WWII, the night just before the allie landing on normandy's coast, a soldier from the air borne is found wounded into a secret spot underground held by a resistant family.

La Gordiranfla

Run time: 18:13 | Mexico | Drama

Directed by Anwar Safa

A compulsive gambler wakes up one day to find out he lost his business (A wagon fixed for selling 'gorditas'). Now in order to recover his wife, he has to recover 'la gordiranfla'.

Leave You In Me

Run time: 19:14 | USA | Drama

Directed by Dutch Doscher

An unexpected admission emerges while a couple is making love. Naked, emotionally and physically, they must confront a tangled web of love, sex and betrayal. The path to reconciliation leads to a dark and uncertain forgiveness.

Lloyd Neck

Run time: 15:30 | USA | Student: Drama (NYU Tisch School of the Arts)

Directed by Benedict Campbell

Alex has a crush on her brother's friend Jesse. But Jesse likes Alex's brother Taylor. Alex knows something is up with her brother. He's in a strange place and he takes Alex and Jesse to his favorite spot.

Love Hurts

Run time: 02:26 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Christian Simmons

Love hurts, love scars, love wounds and mars.

Mandy & Lester

Run time: 10:59 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Lena Beug

In suburban Middle America a spectacled, 10-year-old loner named Lester will emerge as an unlikely hero.

Missing Pieces

Run time: 16:02 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Samah Tokmachi

David Ostermann so deathly afraid of getting testicular cancer that he's gone to Tijuana with his best friend (Rainn Wilson, "The Office") to solve the problem before it happens.

Murdering Mamay's Boy

Run time: 17:50 | USA | Thriller

Directed by Katherine Cunningham-Eves

Based on the short story by pushcart-prize winning novelist Emily Raboteau, 'Murdering Mama's Boy' follows three days in the life of an American-born Haitian girl, her relationship with her mother and her overwhelming desire to commit murder.

My Backyard was a Mountain

Run time: 24:00 | USA | Student: Drama (AFI)

Directed by Adam Schlachter

A Puerto Rican boy has one day to find a home for his pet goat, Chivo, before his family relocates to New York City in the late 1950's. While searching for a new owner for Chivo, the boy discovers the promise of first love with his childhood friend, Denise, whom he will also have to leave behind.

No Place Like Home

Run time: 13:28 | USA | Drama

Directed by Mick Betancourt

A young man returns home to find that the family he left is much the same, but different.

Norma Grace

Run time: 12:12 | USA | Drama

Directed by Laurent Morlet

An aging actress, meets with her young and inexperienced agent in her Hollywood apartment. Time for discussions, arguments and disclosures.

Old Days

Run time: 23:15 | USA | Student: Musical (NYU Tisch School of the Arts)

Directed by Matthew Shapiro

Coming-of-age story about a 74-year-old woman who reluctantly enters a retirement community and struggles to find her niche within the eccentric residents' social hierarchy.

Papiroflexia

Run time: 2:30 | USA | Student: Animation (UCLA)

Directed by Joaquin Baldwin

An origami tale of a skillful paper folder who could shape the world with his hands.

Parts

Run time: 20:00 | USA | Drama

Directed by Scott Hanson

A butcher, saddled with an abandoned child, chooses between starting the family his wife always wanted, or paying off his mob debt by selling the orphan.

Person, Place or Thing

Run time: 16:47 | USA | Drama

Directed by Elle Martini

A drifter's solitary routine is interrupted by an unexpected encounter.

Pigeonhole

Run time: 06:00 | Australia, UK | Dramedy

Directed by Nicole Tanzabel

An old man, living in a high-rise council flat, manages self-sufficiency by catching pigeons on his window sill and eating them. Until one day he captures a dove.

Pink Shorts

Run time: 08:50 | USA | Drama

Directed by Jeffrey Huston

This is the story of a little girl, her favorite pair of pink shorts, and the judgment of Almighty GOD.

Psycho Hillbilly Cabin Massacre!

Run time: 17:00 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Robert Cosnahan

A bloodbath erupts when a group of students discover an isolated hillbilly cabin in the woods.

Redemption Maddie

Run time: 25:15 | USA | Drama

Directed by Aaron King

In the wake of tragedy, fourteen year old Maddie Clifford employs sex, insulin syringes, and an ill-fated rabbit in a startling quest for redemption.

Rushers

Run time: 24:00 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Joey Boukadakis

Two mid-twenties brothers pose as college students and crash Rush Week.

Side Effects May Include

Run time: 03:27 | USA | Alternative

Directed by Shad Clark

Reality ruptures commercial bubbles in this socially explosive short.

Sunday Afternoon

Run time: 14:59 | Canada | Drama

Directed by Kaveh Nabatian

When a mysterious musical force causes scorching heat, tornadoes, and raging fires to devastate our planet, four very different people wait out the end of the world at a local corner store.

El Regalo (The Gift)

Run time: 04:40 | USA | Comedy

Directed by S. Escobedo

A Homeric adventure Mexican proportions.

The Maid

Run time: 19:20 | Egypt, USA | Student: Drama (Temple University)

Directed by Heidi Saman

When Rasha's suspicions of her employers are confirmed, she must come to terms with her perceptions of trust, duty, and her place within the family household.

The Cave: An Adaptation of Plato's Allegory in Clay

Run time: 03:10 | USA | Animation

Directed by Michael Ramsey

An adaptation of Plato's, 'Allegory of the Cave' animated in clay.

The Sacrifice

Run time: 14:54 | USA | Drama

Directed by Diane Namm

The story of 13-year-old Esmee Johnson on the day in which cult leader Rev Dobbins comes to take her as his wife.

The Sky Is Always Beautiful

Run time: 13:57 | Australia | Drama

Directed by Jeremy Cumpston

Sex and Love. Marriage and Infidelity. In crimes of the heart the guilty don't always pay.

The Turtle and The Shark

Run time: 03:52 | USA | Animation

Directed by Ryan Woodward

After defying the King Malietoafaiga of Samoa, and deceiving their families, Fonuea and her husband flee to the island of Tutuila. However, in order to not bring dishonor on their loved ones, they gave up their lives.

This is J03

Run time: 03:00 | UK | Comedy

Directed by Once Were Farmers

This Is J03 is live action/ 3D animation about J03, an 8bit digital man stuck in our 21st century analogue world searching for a way home.

Vartan LLP

Run time: 17:20 | USA | Student: Drama (USC)

Directed by Myles Price

One of the most powerful and successful businessmen working on Wall Street is shaken to his core by one phone call.

Verano 79 (Summer 79)

Run time: 19:00 | Mexico | Drama

Director Rodrigo Oviedo

Two young teens, Rogelio and Chepo, are best friends with different interests. However, they work hard one summer as associates in order to fulfill their entrepreneur dreams. Yet something unexpected happened which brought them apart only to be reunited many years later with a score to settle.

Virgins Wanted

Run time: 21:19 | USA | Comedy

Directed by Casey Geinsen

A 26-year-old Virgin tries to lose her virginity via Craigslist.

HollyShorts Music Video Celebration Official Selections (All in Competition)

"By-Standing: The Beginning of an American Lifetime" Directed by Karen Lin

"Daydreams" Directed by Chris Luccy

"DJ:LA" Directed by Jerry Chan

"Good Morning Herr Horst" Directed by Lovisa Inserra

"La Chica Y Su Bolsa" Directed by Daniel Campos

"Long Night Drone" Directed by Neil Forman

"Secret and Whisper" "XOXOXO" Directed by Steve Hoover & Danny Yourd

"Temporarily In Love" Directed by Randy Scott Slavin

About HollyShorts Film Festival

The inaugural HollyShorts Film Festival took place at The Space Theatre in Hollywood August 2005 and featured 23 short films from the U.S., UK, Poland, Canada and Thailand. The 2nd annual HollyShorts Film Festival took place at Cinespace in Hollywood, CA and featured 53 of the best short films from around the world. 13 different countries were represented. The third annual HollyShorts Film Festival took place August 10-12, 2007, drawing over \$26,000 in prizes awarded. The festival featured three screening venues. Best Short film honors went to "Songbird" Directed by John Thompson. Thompson was awarded a one week audio rental package courtesy of Action Audio and Visual, featuring sound and communications equipment rentals to utilize for his next film project. The festival featured Actor Adrian Grenier's short film "Euthanasia," a DJ performance from the legendary hip hop DJ Biz Markie and 57 short films in competition; three days of screenings, parties, insightful panels along with a slew of networking platforms for HollyShorts participants. The 2007 HollyShorts Film Festival included the following partners: Ourstage.com, h Magazine, Showbiz Software Stores, Action Audio and Visual, Si-Mi.com, Stash DVD Magazine, UCLA Extension Department of Entertainment Studies, Dreamhouse Ensemble, LA One Stop, LBN E lert, Indiepix, Breakyourself, Choice Hospitality, Film Radar, Shortend Magazine, Sand Jewelry by Therese and Vice Hollywood. For more information, visit www.hollyshorts.com .

About HollyShorts

HollyShorts is an organization devoted to showcasing the best and brightest short films from around the globe, advancing the careers of filmmakers through screenings, networking events, and various panel and forums. The HollyShorts Film festival showcases the top short films produced 30- minutes or less. For more information, please visit www.hollyshorts.com .