



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2006

INDEPENDENT FILM GURUS JOHN SAYLES AND MAGGIE RENZIE TO BE HONORED AT 8TH ANNUAL SIDEWALK MOVING PICTURE FESTIVAL

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, recently recognized as one of TIME magazine’s “Film Festivals for the Rest of Us”, announces that John Sayles and Maggie Renzi will be presented with a special award at Sidewalk’s Opening Night Celebration, honoring them for their years of service, dedication and collaboration in independent filmmaking on Friday, September 22 at 8 pm at the Alabama Theatre.

Widely known for their fiercely independent approach to filmmaking, Sayles and Renzi have collaborated as writer/director and producer on more than 10 feature films, including SILVER CITY, LONE STAR, PASSION FISH and MATEWAN. The two are currently in pre-production on HONEYDRIPPER in Greenville, Ala, about a 1950s juke joint starring Danny Glover, Ruth Brown, Eddie Shaw, Keb Mo’ and Gary Clark, Jr.

“It is an honor for us to present an award to Maggie and John to kick off our 8th annual festival,” Erik Jambor, director and co-founder said. “They completely embody the spirit of independent filmmaking that has inspired so many of us to begin making movies, and honoring them at Sidewalk is a perfect way to remind new filmmakers about the long careers that lie ahead for them.”

On Saturday, September 23 at 11 am, Sayles and Renzi will participate in a special “Conversation with John Sayles and Maggie Renzi” at the Harbert Center as part of the Sidewalk SideTalks, free panel discussions sponsored by Baker Donnelson. SideTalks continue throughout the weekend.

“We are happy to have our introduction to Alabama happen at Sidewalk,” Sayles said. “We are honored to be recognized for our body of work, and are excited to share our story with the aspiring filmmakers in Alabama.

The 2006 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival is set for September 22-24 in downtown Birmingham’s historic Theatre District. Opening Night tickets (\$10 in advance / \$13 at the door) and Weekend Passes (\$25 / \$20 for Sidewalk members and students with valid ID) are available by calling 1-800-590-4043 or online at www.sidewalkfest.com. Single Film Tickets will be available for \$7 each (or three for \$15) during the festival weekend. **Tickets are on sale now.** Additional information is available online at the festival website at www.sidewalkfest.com.

The 2006 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival is sponsored by Stella Artois, EBSCO Industries, Black and White, Alabama Power Foundation, WBRC Fox 6, Charter Communications, Bright House Networks, al.com, Children’s Hospital and Birmingham magazine and is made possible, in part, by the Jefferson County Commission through the Jefferson County Community Arts Fund administered by the Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham.

The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival is a project of the Alabama Moving Image Association, Inc., a publicly supported 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to inspire, encourage and support films and filmmaking in Alabama.

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About Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival

The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, a celebration of new independent cinema in downtown Birmingham, takes place the last weekend of September. Since its debut in 1999, filmmakers from across the country and around the world have come to Birmingham to screen their work at Sidewalk and have been thrilled to discover fresh

enthusiastic crowds eager to devour new independent cinema. The atmosphere at Sidewalk is electric with creativity and collaboration as film-lovers and filmmakers mix and mingle between screenings, participate in SideTalk panel discussions at the Sidewalk Tech Center, or simply enjoy food and live music at the Sidewalk Cafe located at 'G'. Don't miss your chance to be a part of what the *Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide* calls "One of the Top 10 Film Festival Vacations."

In 2005, the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival was honored to recognize Mr. John C. Reilly with the inaugural Spirit of Sidewalk award, for his amazing body of work. Other past attendees of the festival include: Peter Gilbert (HOOP DREAMS), Amber Benson (BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER), Mary Kay Place (THE BIG CHILL), Mary Lynn Rajbuski (24, PUNCH DRUNK LOVE, SWEET HOME ALABAMA), Dash Mihok (THE THIN RED LINE, ROMEO + JULIET), Dan Myrick (BLAIR WITCH PROJECT), Vincent Kartheiser (ER, ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE, ANGEL), Chris Gore (IFC, FilmThreat.com), Daniel Wallace (BIG FISH), Gill Holland (HURRICANE STREETS), Adrian Grenier (HBO's ENTOURAGE, Woody Allen's CELEBRITY), Louise Fletcher (ONE FLEW OVER THE CUKOO'S NEST), David Keith (AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMEN), Chris Mulkey (TWIN PEAKS) and many more up and coming award winning filmmakers and stars.