

TENTH ANNUAL

sidewalk

MOVING PICTURE FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY REGIONS



For immediate release:

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Celebrating 10 Years of Independents

Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival Announces Spotlight Screenings Additional Competitive Films Also Announced

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival, recently recognized as one of TIME magazine's "Film Festivals for the Rest of Us" and featured on STARZ! network, is pleased to announce its Spotlight Screenings, a special program of feature length narrative and documentary films that are not in competition. The 2008 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival presented by Regions Bank will celebrate "Ten Years of Independents." This year's festival will be September 26-28 and is located in downtown Birmingham's historic Theatre District.

The following is list the feature documentary and narrative films that will be screened at this year's festival:

Narrative Feature Films

DANCE OF THE DEAD

Director: Gregg Bishop

Dance of the Dead is an horror-adventure comedy that takes place on the night of the big Prom - the dead rise to eat the living, and the only people who can stop them are the losers who couldn't get dates to the dance.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Director: Darren Grodsky & Danny Jacobs

Peter is a medical student about to graduate and begin his residency. When his professor fails him, he winds up in bed with an actress and singer named Bogart rolling through Los Angeles. He accompanies her to the northern most tip of California, where he encounters her eccentric family of pot farmers. But when Bogart runs away without a word, Peter is thrust into the picturesque and bizarre world that is Humboldt County.

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LET THE RIGHT ONE IN (Låt den rätte komma in)

Director: Tomas Alfredson

Oskar, a bullied 12-year old, dreams of revenge. He falls in love with Eli, a peculiar girl. She can't stand the sun or food and to come into a room she needs to be invited. Eli gives Oskar the strength to hit back but when he realizes that Eli needs to drink other peoples' blood to live he's faced with a choice. How much can love forgive? *Let The Right One In* is a story both violent and highly romantic, set in the Stockholm suburb of Blackeberg in 1982.

NIGHTS AND WEEKENDS

Director: Greta Gerwig & Joe Swanberg

A man and woman must face the tension that builds between them during a long-distance relationship.

POP SKULL

Director: Adam Wingard

Pop Skull depicts the lonely and disjointed life of Daniel, a young Alabama pill addict, as his efforts to cope with the trials of his day-to-day life collide with the increasing influence of murderous and displaced spirits that inhabit his home.

TIME CRIMES (Los Cronocrímenes)

Director: Nacho Vigalondo

Hector is an ordinary man who's moving to a new house with his wife. One evening, while he's looking through his binoculars, he sees a naked girl in the woods. He decides to go there just to find that same girl laying on a rock. Suddenly, a man with a pink bandage covering his face, stabs Hector in his arm with scissors. Then a chase starts, leading Hector to a time machine that brings him back nearly an hour in the past. The man in charge of the time machine explains to Hector (Hector 2) that he must not interfere with the other Hector (Hector 1) so he can go into the time machine again. Things complicate....

Documentary Feature Films

FRONTRUNNERS

Director: Caroline Suh

It's hard to run for office, and the campaign for student body president at Stuyvesant, perhaps the most prestigious public high school in the country, is almost as sophisticated as any presidential election. But unlike presidential candidates, they also have to do their homework, take their SATs and write their college applications. *Frontrunners* follows the recent elections at the country's most competitive high school, exploring how politics works at a nascent level. As the race unfolds, it reveals that teenagers have an implicit understanding of how strategy, race, gender, personality, platforms, charisma, and hairstyle figure into a winning campaign.

JUMP!

Director: Helen Hood Scheer

Documentary about five teams of kids who push physical and psychological limits to compete in the World Jump Rope Competition. Rivalry and collaboration have dramatic, unexpected results.

New Addition to the Documentary Feature Competition Line-Up

ROCK-AFIRE EXPLOSION

Director: Brett Whitcomb

With the closing of Showbiz Pizza Place in the early nineties, and the subsequent removal of its animatronic rock band Rock-afire Explosion, a small but determined group of the band's fans persisted with the hopes of reviving their fallen obsession.

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It wasn't until 2007, with the resurgence of the Rock-afire Explosion on YouTube with songs like "Miss New Booty," "Hey There Delilah," and "Love in This Club," that the animatronic band found its way back into the public consciousness. Chris Thrash, a car salesman from Phenix City, Alabama who recently purchased a Rock-afire Explosion, has led the charge with his inventive programming and clever song choice.

New Addition to the Narrative Feature Competition Line-Up

THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY

Director: Ed Gass-Donnelly

When a woman plummets from her condo balcony in Toronto's West Queen West neighborhood, five turbulent lives collide, releasing spurts and geysers of long suppressed sexuality and aggression.

Press kits, hi resolution images and DVD screeners of festival films are available (on a limited basis) upon request. Please contact David Barry or Natalie Hummel to request specific screeners and make arrangements to pick films up at the Sidewalk office. Please only request what you can view and return within 48 hours.

This year's festival will be September 26-28, 2008. Opening Night tickets are \$12 in advance / \$15 at the door. Weekend Passes are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Discounts are available for Sidewalk members and students with valid ID. Tickets will be available online at www.sidewalkfest.com. Single film tickets will be available for \$8 each or three for \$20 during the festival weekend. Additional information is also available online at www.sidewalkfest.com.

The 2008 Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival presented by Regions Bank is sponsored Alabama Power, Ebsco Industries, Sloss Real Estate Group, Fox 6, Charter Media, Birmingham Weekly, Bright House, Birmingham Magazine, al.com, Vulcan Materials, Baker Donelson, Slaughter Group, Whole Foods, McWane Science Center, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Clarus Consulting Group, and is made possible, in part, by the Hugh Kaul foundation.

The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival Presented By Regions Bank 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.

About Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival Presented By Regions Bank

The Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival Presented By Regions Bank is a celebration of new independent cinema in downtown Birmingham. This year's festival will be September 26-28, 2008. 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 panel discussions, or simply enjoy food at the Sidewalk Café or live music at the Sidewalk Music Lounge. 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."

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**For more information about the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival
Presented By Regions Bank
Visit us online: www.sidewalkfest.com**