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ArtPrize OnScreen has big opening day with packed theater, outdoor party, music

Passes, tickets on sale for films, parties at WaterfrontFilm.org

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 25, 2015 – Grand Rapids high school students packed the 415-seat Ladies Literary Club on Sheldon Boulevard SE Friday morning for a screening of “T-Rex”, the story of Olympic Gold Medal Boxer Claressa Shields.

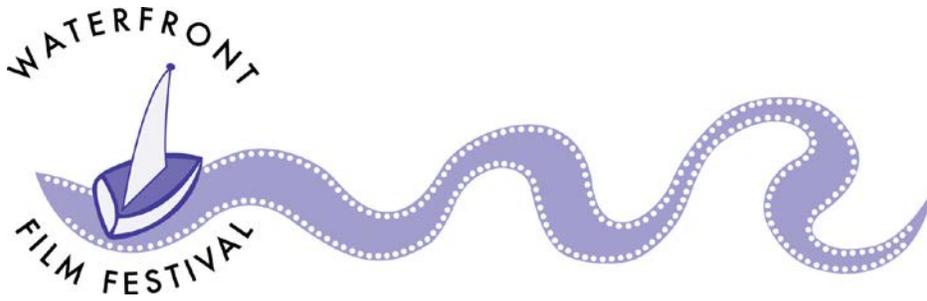
When Shields appeared on the big screen following the film for a live Skype Q&A session, the students in attendance roared with approval for the Flint-area boxer.

“It was great to see all the students engaged in this way. It makes putting on the show completely worth it.” Waterfront Film Festival Co-founder Hopwood DePree said.

The “T-Rex” film was followed by the quarterly seasonal meeting of the Michigan Film Office and Digital Media Advisory Council, which was free and open to the public and attended by many students from Compass Film Academy and Ferris State among others.

The pop-up beer garden opened at 2:30 p.m. and will continue open through the weekend. Local musician Andrew Martin performed as well as headliner Tony Ferrari, a Los Angeles-based singer and guitarist. Films and festivities continue through Sunday evening at 61 Sheldon Blvd. SE.

Twenty-two films – documentaries, narratives and film shorts – will be screened starting Friday morning and through the weekend. Passes and tickets are available at WaterfrontFilm.org, and more details about events and visiting filmmakers can be obtained through the Waterfront Film mobile app.



Since 1999, Waterfront Film Festival has strived to heighten the profile of West Michigan culture and arts. This year, audiences can vote for their favorite film. There are cash prizes, a premiere party and short theater run provided by Celebration Cinema, as well as lodging from Amway Hotel Group for the night of the premiere.

In addition to the music and film lineup, Waterfront also will host a pair of Afterglow Parties at 10 p.m. on Friday Sept. 25 and Saturday Sept 26 for visiting filmmakers, celebrity guests, festival sponsors and VIP pass holders. A select number of tickets may be available at WaterfrontFilm.org

The Friday Afterglow will be held at a private penthouse on Monroe Center, sponsored by The Gordon Group & Bransco Properties. The Party will follow the 8 p.m. screening of “HoneyGlue” with filmmaker James Bird and star Adriana Mather expected in attendance.

On Saturday night the Afterglow will follow the 8 p.m. screening of “Last Days in the Desert” starring Ewan MacGregor, with director Rodrigo Garcia expected in attendance. Actress Perrey Reeves, from “Entourage” also is expected to be in attendance.

About WaterfrontFilm.Org

The non-profit Waterfront Film organization has been offering unique film experiences, education and opportunities for the past 17 years. Based in West Michigan, Waterfront Film organization founded and hosts one of the leading destination film festival in the Midwest, regularly hosting Midwest premieres of Academy Award-winning and nominated films. Recognized as a top five film festival by SAG Indie in the Screen Actors Guild magazine, WFF is a volunteer event committed to creating a “middle-coast” venue for independent filmmakers while further enhancing the cultural draw of West Michigan. For more information on Waterfront Film organization visit www.waterfrontfilm.org, “like” us on Facebook at Facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm and follow us on Twitter at Twitter.com/WaterfrontFilm