



June 9-12, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2004

MEDIA CONTACT

Melanie Scholten
616-394-0000 (day)
media@waterfrontfilm.org

TICKET/FESTIVAL INFO

269-857-8351
www.waterfrontfilm.org

Waterfront Film Festival Announces Inaugural “Waterfront Film Society” Event

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – The Waterfront Film Society is pleased to announce their first event: a special screening of the critically-acclaimed, award-winning, audience favorite hit documentary *Hands on a Hardbody*.

The screening will take place on Saturday, November 6 at 7:30pm at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver Street, Saugatuck. The ticket price of \$15 includes the film screening followed by a Q&A with co-creator and producer Chapin Wilson. Attendees are also invited to join the filmmaker and Waterfront Film Festival Founders at a post screening reception sponsored by the Waterfront Film Society. Tickets can be purchased in advance by phone, 269.857.8351, or at the door. Chapin Wilson attended the 2004 Waterfront Film Festival with his film *Brass Tacks*.

“We’re beyond excited to take Waterfront to this next level,” said co-founder Hopwood DePree. “Our attendees have responded so well to the films and guests we bring to the festival in June that we wanted to offer them more throughout the year.”

The Film Society is open to anyone and most events will be open to the public, DePree said. He added that in addition to regular screenings and receptions, organizers plan to offer perks such as invitations to parties and mixers both in Michigan and Los Angeles, discounts on festival passes, and a quarterly newsletter to Society members. Those interested in joining should send an e-mail to “info@waterfrontfilm.org”.

Hands on a Hardbody is a comical look at 23 contestants who vie “survivor-style” for a brand new loaded pick up truck. This offbeat film shows the quirkier side of human nature while providing a thoroughly entertaining watch. Each contestant represents something, but which will win out: desperation, determination, God, endurance, or experience?

“This is the perfect film to open this series,” according to DePree. “It’s hilarious and easy to watch, and it never made it to theaters in the Midwest. The drama and personal stories of the contestants really draw you in. I can see why the film got so much attention.”

Entertainment professionals from Los Angeles, New York, and Michigan created the Waterfront Film Festival in 1999 to provide a “middle coast” venue for independent filmmakers eager to show their work to sophisticated audiences. The 2005 festival will run June 9-12. For additional festival information visit www.waterfrontfilm.org.

-more-

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree • Dori DePree • Hopwood DePree • Kori Eldean • Judy Smith

ABOUT THE FILM

How far would you go for a brand-new, fully loaded pickup truck? Would you go as far as the 23 contestants in *Hands on a Hard Body*, who entered a contest in which the last one standing with his or her hand on the car, drove off with it?

S.R. Bindler documents the contest that takes place each year at a Nissan dealership in Longview, Texas. And what a contest it is. Twenty-three names are drawn at random and these lucky folks get the opportunity to participate. The rules are simple: one hand must remain on the truck at all times; no leaning or squatting allowed; if the hand is raised even momentarily, the contestant is out. One 5-minute break is permitted every hour, and one 15-minute break every 6 hours. The last three survivors--excuse us, contestants--must be tested for drugs. The results are hilarious. The gloves irritate hands (sweat could ruin the truck's finish), legs go numb, people get on each other's nerves. Strategy is involved, cheaters are accused, competition is fierce. "It's a contest, they say, of stamina, but it's who can maintain their sanity the longest," we're told by 1992 winner Benny Perkins, who competes once again. This offbeat film shows the quirkiest side of human nature while providing a thoroughly entertaining watch. Each contestant represents something, but which will win out: desperation (a woman tired of riding her bike everywhere but who can't afford car payments), determination (a toothless woman who "tr[ies] to finish everything I start"), God (a woman's church holds a prayer chain for her as she communes with Jesus by the truck), endurance (a former Marine who once stayed awake for five days), or experience (Perkins is sure he knows all the tricks)? Who finally makes it through the 78-hour ordeal? You'll have to watch this comical film to find out.

--Jenny Brown

###

FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree • Dori DePree • Hopwood DePree • Kori Eldean • Judy Smith