



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2002

CONTACT

Melanie Scholten
616-394-0000 (day)
info@waterfrontfilm.com

Waterfront Film Festival Gears Up for Fourth Year

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – Independent filmmakers and thousands of fans who appreciate their work will converge on this Lake Michigan community June 6-9 for the fourth annual Waterfront Film Festival – the only one of its kind in Michigan and the Midwest.

The 2002 Call for Entries wrapped up March 15, film selections are being made, and committee members and volunteers are organizing what promises to be the most exciting Waterfront Film Festival ever. Over 6,000 people are expected to attend. “It is an absolutely fun-filled weekend! The passion behind the festival is amazing,” said Sean Elliot, a talent agent with Endeavor LA who attended last year.

The 2001 festival drew 250 submissions from independent filmmakers nationwide. Nineteen feature-length films and 17 shorts were presented – to rave reviews by both fans and critics. “I discovered some wonderful new films that I’m enthusiastically recommending to other outlets,” said Robert Hawk, a New York City-based independent film consultant and producer as well as Sundance Advisory Selection Committee member.

Big-name artists – including Jason Alexander, Scott Baio, and Kristen Minter – were featured in the films presented at the festival. Many of the films’ actors, writers, and directors attended Waterfront – and this year promises more of the same.

Seminars in which professionals from the film industry participate in panel discussions are sprinkled in between film screenings and are open to the public. These question-and-answer sessions give attendees the opportunity to learn about screenwriting, independent filmmaking, and the life of an actor. Last year's panelists included producer Jay Froberg (*The Elite*), screenwriter Adam Herz (*American Pie* and *American Pie II*), actress Kristin Minter (*ER*; *The Bread, My Sweet*), screenwriter Steve Pink (*High Fidelity*, *Grosse Pointe Blank*), and filmmaker-writer-actor Scott Wiper (*A Better Way to Die*, *Pearl Harbor*).

The festival provides a thriving creative environment for independent filmmakers to expand their experience beyond the studios. "Waterfront isn't just a film festival, it's a filmmaker's festival," said Froberg, a former MGM entertainment lawyer and vice president who recently formed his own L.A.-based production company, ROAR Pictures. Froberg has been involved in Waterfront since its inception.

Yet it is also a place for movie-lovers. "Waterfront gives the public the opportunity to see many high-quality independent films that they otherwise would not have the chance to see," said Kori Eldean, one of the festival's founders.

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.

Saugatuck, located midway between Detroit and Chicago, is long renowned as a meeting place for artists, writers, actors, and arts-literate consumers. The quaint village – nestled in the beautiful white sand dunes of Lake Michigan and curled around an inland bay – offers wonderful restaurants, art galleries, shopping, and lodging, all within easy distance of festival venues. For more information, visit the official festival Website at www.waterfrontfilm.com.

###