

**FOR RELEASE**

April 15, 2002, through June 9, 2002

**CONTACT**

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

## Waterfront Film Festival Fact Sheet

**Founders:** Siblings Dana DePree, Dori DePree, and Hopwood DePree; Kori Eldean; Judy Smith.

All are from Holland, Michigan. Hopwood DePree is now an L.A.-based filmmaker who has written, directed, acted in, and produced several feature-length films, including *Rhinoskin: The Making of a Movie Star* and *The Last Big Attraction*, both on video.

**Founded In:** 1999.

**Why:** The founders, with help from L.A. and New York entertainment professionals, created the Waterfront Film Festival to provide a “middle coast” venue for independent filmmakers eager to show their work to sophisticated audiences. The festival is not judged or adjudicated but rather an opportunity for filmmakers to informally connect with their audiences.

**2002 Festival:** June 6-9; the fourth annual event; over 6,000 people are expected to attend. Major sponsors: Fox 17 WXMI, Kodak, FilmThreat.com, MGM, William Morris Agency.

**Festival**

**Location:** Various venues in Saugatuck, Michigan (specific venues to be announced in May). Dubbed “The Cape Cod of the Midwest”, Saugatuck is no stranger to the arts. It is summer home to Oxbow Summer Art School, a program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and also hosts several other visual arts and musical festivals throughout the summer. Saugatuck is located 100 miles from Chicago in Southwestern Michigan on the shore of Lake Michigan.

**Festival**

**Slogan:** *Celebrating the Art of the Independent Film.*

**What Is  
Independent  
Film?**

There have been many “one-word” definitions: edgy, experimental, underground, offbeat, avant-garde. And, in recent years, the line separating “independent film” from “studio movie” has become blurred. Motion pictures such as *American Beauty* and *Moulin Rouge* have that edgy, indie feel – yet they’re studio productions.

Independent Film Consultant Robert Hawk says there remains one litmus test for *independence*: “Simply, it must be a film in which a producer allows a director to fully realize his or her vision.”

**2002**

**Advisory  
Board:**

Leanna Creel, Filmmaker; Patrick Sheane Duncan, Screenwriter; Sean Elliott, Talent Agent, Endeavor Agency; Jennie Frankel, Vice President of Literary for Zide/Perry Entertainment; Jay Froberg, President, ROAR Pictures, and Entertainment Lawyer; Chris Gore, Film Critic, also Creator/Editor of Film Threat; Lynda Hansen, Independent Film Producer and Consultant, also the American Representative for the Berlin Film Festival; Todd Hanson, Programmer, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival; Robert Hawk, Independent Film Producer and Consultant, also member of the Advisory Selection Committee for the Sundance Film Festival; Adam Herz, Screenwriter; Janet Lockwood, Head, Michigan Film Commission; Dan Mirvish, Filmmaker and Founder of Slamdance Film Festival; Andrew Ruf, Talent Agent, Paradigm Talent Agency; Mary Jane Skalski, Producer; John Sloss, Leading Entertainment Lawyer, Sloss Law Office P.C.; Jackie Tepper, Manager, Acquisitions & Co-Productions, New Line Cinema; Warren Zide, President, Zide/Perry Entertainment

**Number of  
Films  
Shown In  
2001:**

The 2001 festival drew 250 submissions from independent filmmakers nationwide. Nineteen feature-length films and 17 shorts were presented.

**Educational  
Events:**

Seminars in filmmaking and film marketing, acting, and screenwriting are offered during the four-day event.

**Admission  
Prices:**

Individual film tickets: \$7 per film before 6:30pm, \$10 per film after 6:30pm; \$10 per seminar; Day Pass for Friday, Saturday or Sunday \$45/day (includes admission to all films and seminars on that day); Superpass \$150 (includes admission to all films and seminars and to Friday night gala).

**Festival Office  
Location:**

437 Water Street, Corner of Main and Water Streets (staffed mid-May through June 10)

**Tickets:**

Can be purchased by calling 616.857.8351, at the festival office (address above), or at each venue 30 minutes prior to the show.

**Official  
Website:**

[www.waterfrontfilm.com](http://www.waterfrontfilm.com).

###