

Ann Arbor Film Festival
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**ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES JURORS
FOR 45th ANNUAL FESTIVAL, MARCH 20-25**

*Panel of award-winning filmmakers will award
more than \$20,000 in prizes*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 18, 2007 – It's time to find the tiny flashlight – and hustle up some respect for the three jury members of this year's Ann Arbor Film Festival. With only two months to go before opening night, the screening committee members is well on the way to selecting the programs. The 45th Ann Arbor Film Festival takes place March 20-25, 2007 in the historic Michigan Theater.

Jurors will be David Gatten, Deborah Stratman and Brooke Keesling. Gatten explores the link between the printed word and moving images. He is at work on a series of nine films about letters, lovers, books, ghosts and the Byrd family of Virginia during the early 18th century. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as in private collections in the U.S., Canada and Japan.

Stratman, like Gatten, is a well-known experimental and documentary filmmaker. A Chicago-based film and videomaker, she is presently working on three new films about, respectively, disappearance, utopian failures and the culture of elevated threat. A Guggenheim and Fulbright fellow, she has screened at the Whitney Biennial, Sundance, Viennale and Rotterdam film festivals. She teaches at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Keesling, an animator, filmmaker and educator, is currently Professor of Animation at Detroit's College of Creative Studies. She is the creator of "Boobie Girl," one of the films named by the Mackinac Center in a report that accused AAFF of showing obscene material in violation of state funding rules. Keesling won both an Academy Award® and

an Emmy Award® for the best animated film by a student in 2001 for “Boobie Girl.” Her work has been featured in more than 80 film festivals world wide, including AAFF.

“We’re honored to have such a respected group of jurors for the 45th festival, to continue our tradition of having renowned filmmakers from around the world contribute to our festival,” said Christen McArdle, Executive Director of AAFF.

Last year, more than 2,000 films were entered in the AAFF and a similar number are on tap for this year’s fest. The screening committees select over 100 films to be shown during the week-long festival, but all films entered are eligible for awards. The festival will continue to provide the daily Audience Award, where each day the audience will determine which filmmaker will receive a \$500 award. The Ann Arbor Film Festival is the only festival in the United States to provide a daily award to filmmakers.

Sneak Peaks at Programming

On Saturday, March 24, a landmark co-presentation between the Ann Arbor Film Festival and the San Francisco Cinematheque called “Geography of the Body.” Curated by Alfonso Alvarez, this program will highlight a wide range of makers whose films use the body as the location to examine political issues, celebrate beauty, and ask the audience to personally re-examine what is artistic expression and free speech. In an effort to highlight issues of taste, morality and standards guiding funding decisions related to the AAFF, and with the additional support from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the San Francisco Cinematheque is pleased to co-present films by Willard Mass, Bruce Conner, Barbara Hammer, George Kuchar, Martha Colburn, Scott Stark, Ann Severson and many others.

About Ann Arbor Film Festival

The Ann Arbor Film Festival celebrates independent and experimental filmmakers and artists of the moving image from around the world. The longest-running festival of its kind in North America, it was founded in 1963 and is one of the premiere festivals in the nation. Now in its 45th year, it attracts thousands of entries from filmmakers in over 30 countries competing for an awards purse of more than \$20,000. Created as an alternative to commercial cinema and mainstream film festivals, the annual week-long festival remains true to its original goal of promoting film as art and honoring the artists who make it all possible. This year's festival runs March 20-25, 2007. For more information, please visit www.aafilmfest.org.

About Ann Arbor Film Festival Sponsors

Major supporters of the Ann Arbor Film Festival include The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, the Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor’s 107one, Borders, Weber’s Inn, the State Street Area Association and SEE Eyewear.

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