

Ann Arbor Film Festival
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45th ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF MARCH 20

*Press preview set for March 14 for international
experimental and independent film showcase*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 9, 2007 – More than 2,000 films were entered from 25 countries. From these, 100 have been chosen for screening. This year's three expert jurors are gearing up to award thousands of dollars in prizes. In less than just over a week, the 45th Ann Arbor Film Festival kicks off for six fun-filled days and nights, March 20-25, in the historic Michigan Theater.

A complete listing of films being screened during the festival is available on the AAFF web site. Please visit www.aafilmfest.org. On Opening Night, March 20, the screening will include "El Doctor," a film by Suzan Pitt, known for her charming animated films awarded in years past, including the immortal "Quasi at the Quackadero."

The AAFF press preview will take place this Wednesday, March 14 at 2:00PM at Babs Underground Lounge, 213 S. Ashley Street, in downtown Ann Arbor. AAFF Executive Director Christen McArdle will be on hand to field questions and a selection of choice films from this year's festival will be previewed.

A second press event, Meet the Filmmakers, is scheduled at 12:00PM on March 23 during the film festival, also at Babs Underground Lounge. The list of filmmakers who will attend is currently under development.

In addition to the groundbreaking cooperative presentation of AAFF and San Francisco Cinematheque announced previously for Saturday, March 24, there will be many special screenings and presentations, including but not limited to:

Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, midnight movies will return to the AAFF, showing at the State Theater for the first time. Both are rarely seen films, both were directed by Alejandro Jodorowsky: *El Topo* and *The Holy Mountain*.

On Friday, March 23 at 1:00PM, film curator and historian Gerry Fialka takes a long look back at Ann Arbor Film Festival Pioneers. Hear his overview at Shaman Drum Bookshop, 311-315 S. State Street, around the corner from the Michigan Theater.

On Saturday, March 23 at 1:30PM, a panel discussion about censorship in the arts will be hosted by Chris Gore, the renown founder of Film Threat Magazine and Michigan native. Additional participants include Eddie Schmidt, producer of "This Film Is Not Yet Rated," Elaine King, who was the director of the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati immediately after the Robert Mapplethorpe controversy in 1990, and Matthew Bernstein, editor of *Controlling Hollywood: Censorship and Regulation in the Studio Era*.

Festival passes, weekend passes and tickets for individual screenings of films in competition and special events are now available through TicketWeb.com.

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 the country, it was founded in 1963. Now in its 45th year, it attracts thousands of entries from filmmakers in 20 countries competing for an awards purse of more than \$15,000. 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.

About the Michigan Theater

Lovingly restored to its original 1928 glory, the historic Michigan Theater is the longstanding home to the Ann Arbor Film Festival. This glorious movie palace combines living history with a singular dedication to the finest film and live entertainment available today. In addition to two screening rooms, it holds a Michigan treasure: the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ, one of the only theater organs in existence that is still played in its original home on a regular basis. It is located at 603 East Liberty St. in downtown Ann Arbor. For more information, visit <http://michtheater.org>.

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