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Ann Arbor Film Festival Unveils ACT of AUDACITY #1

Glam rock karaoke in the streets of Ann Arbor electrifies fundraising initiative

ANN ARBOR, Mich., October 24, 2007 – As part of its *Endangered* fundraising campaign, the Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) just released an online video of the first *Act of Audacity* – glam rock karaoke in the streets of Ann Arbor. To watch this one-of-a-kind video, visit:

www.aafilmfest.org

On Wednesday, October 17th the quiet noon streets of Ann Arbor were set shaking when a giant yellow pick-up truck pulled-up with a karaoke machine and giant speakers. There were wild outfits, wigs, dramatic dance moves, awed gawkers, and make-up...a whole lot of make-up. And of course, there were the classic glam rocking songs by David Bowie, Queen, T.Rex, and yes, Journey. Which songs? [Watch](#) and find out!

Acts of Audacity serve as a testament to the extreme dedication of staff and volunteers of the Ann Arbor Film Festival to the success of the *Endangered* campaign. Challenged with financial crisis due to recent politically-motivated state funding controversy and cuts, the AAFF has responded with a creative and engaging approach. Each month contributors to the campaign get to vote for which *Act of Audacity* the AAFF will perform once fundraising goals are reached. For the first month, Act I, the choices were urban tobogganing, finger puppets recreating famous movie scenes, or glam rock karaoke in the streets of Ann Arbor. Voting went down to the final day with glam rock karaoke winning by a narrow margin. The festival surpassed its initial goal of \$10,000 and has received \$11,740 in the first 5 weeks of its *Endangered* campaign. The total campaign goal is \$75,000, which will restore health and vitality to the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

“This festival is a cultural gem and puts an international spotlight on Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan. We hope that our community of supporters continues to help ensure that the AAFF survives during this challenging time,” said festival director Christen McArdle. The funding controversy and the AAFF’s response to the issue has received international attention and acclaim. Case studies are currently being conducted in Australia and the United Kingdom, which will share the importance and historical influence of the Ann Arbor Film Festival, and discuss the festival’s creative response to the controversy and funding needs.

The next act of the *Endangered* campaign aims to reach \$35,000 by November 28th, at which point festival employees will perform one of the following: challenge two Detroit pro athletes to a game of badminton while dressed as giant animals; organize a public street protest against bad cinema; or perform the dance scene from *Singing in the Rain* with super-soakers and water balloons. According to Chris Csont, one of the performing employees, “We hope our *Acts of Audacity* entertain and inspire others to support the Ann Arbor Film Festival. This is a cultural treasure and we are going all out for the cause.”

In its 46th year, the Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) is one of the longest-running film festivals in the world, best known for cutting-edge and provocative alternative cinema. The AAFF receives 2,000 submissions from over 30 countries around the world. A further testament to its longstanding credibility, when a film wins an award at the Ann Arbor Film Festival, it is eligible to win an Academy Award.

To learn more about the AAFF's *Endangered* campaign, please visit:
<http://www.aafilmfest.org/endangered>.

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