



Kansas International Film Festival - September 9 –15, 2005
Program subject to change

Films

5x2

5x2 is a haunting and realistic evocation of the evanescence of love, and how adult relationships evolve over time. Returning to a more intimate scale following his international smash, *Swimming Pool*, director Francois Ozon's chamber drama is an anatomy of a failed marriage told in reverse chronology. Subverting the conventions of cinema romance along with audience expectations of happy endings, Ozon focuses on five key chapters in these two people's lives that reveal the inextricable emotional ties between them, at the same time they expose the inevitable seeds of discord. Directed by Francois Ozon/90 min/France.

11:59

A jaded news photojournalist, Aaron Dougherty, has just broken the national news story of the year. After suddenly waking up in a field in the middle of nowhere, with no recollection of the past 24 hours, Aaron is forced to reexamine his life before understanding the mysterious events of his lost time. Directed by Jamin Winans/116 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

ACNE and MOVIESIDE PROGRAM

ACNE is a groundbreaking revisionist horror/sci-fi/film noir film that has thrilled audience across the country. It tells the story of a group of teenagers who turn into zombie-like creatures after drinking contaminated water. They set out to infect other teens, develop a craving for chocolate, and get hunted down by the military. *Acne* will have you riveted until its powerful and haunting finale! A vibrant punk rock soundtrack provides the appropriate backdrop to the carnage, with Devo, The Dead Kennedys, and the Lunachicks all featured heavily. Directed by Rusty Nails/70 min/USA. The **MOVIESIDE PROGRAM**, consists of a series of shorts including *The Ramones and I* (Rusty Nails), *The Heart of the World* (Guy Maddin), *I Don't Want to Grow Up* (Tom Waits-Jim Jarmusch), *Camera* (David Cronenberg), and *State of the Union* (Bryan Boyce). 25 min. **Filmmaker will attend screening.**

AFTER THE APOCALYPSE

WW III has killed all but five people: 1 woman and 4 men survive but have lost the ability to speak as a result of chemical gases used in the war. Their pasts erased, they must recreate their lives and find new ways to communicate. Moises, a former clown, would rather just entertain people; Zorikh, the overprotective husband of pregnant Jacqueline, finds it hard to trust anyone; Yasuaki and his friend Oscar struggle to help the human race survive. Director Nakajima says, "This is a futuristic drama that shows how people must discover one another beyond words." Won *Best Feature Film Award* at the New Jersey International Film Festival. Directed by Yasuaki Nakajima/71 min/Japan-USA.

AMONG BROTHERS

Based on actual events: Jennifer Matthews was found dead in her burned down apartment. The Police informed the family that it appeared to be an accident. Two days later, the autopsy revealed that there was no presence of smoke in Jennifer's lungs. Her death was no accident. Directed by John Schwert/89 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

APRES VOUS

Two of France's most celebrated actors Daniel Auteuil and José Garcia team up in a romantic comedy from Director, Pierre Salvadori that begs the question: Can it actually be bad to be a good Samaritan? This is a wonderful French comedy with sublime subtle touches. Directed by Pierre Salvadori/French.

AT LAST

The script is based on the true-life relationship of first-time director Tom Anton and wife, co-writer, Sandi Russell. The drama explores the experience of a second chance at first love. Two childhood sweethearts discover the love letters that were hidden by the boy's mother 25 years earlier. Both went on to marry and start families but what happens when you dig up the past? Directed by Tom Anton/110 min/USA.

BEFORE THEY FALL OFF THE CLIFF

In 1994 Matthew McBride was fighting a difficult battle with paranoid schizophrenia. The imaginary voices in his head told him that if he killed his parents he could stop WW III. This film is the ultimate story of forgiveness as the McBride family siblings raise awareness of mental illness by recounting how they cope with a jailed, schizophrenic brother who killed their parents. Directed by Art Holliday/59 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

CAVITE

Jury Award Winner from the San Francisco International Film Festival. A thriller about a young man visiting the Philippines who finds his family has been kidnapped by terrorists. Upon arriving at the airport, Adam gets a call and learns that his mother and sister have been kidnapped and will be killed if he doesn't comply with the kidnapper's demands. Adam is familiar with the brutal techniques of the Muslim Abu Sayyaf terrorists

who work in the region. But when he discovers the real motivation for the kidnapping, Adam is faced with the worst dilemma imaginable. Starring Ian Gamazon, Dominique Gonzalez. Directed by Neil dela Llana/79 min/Philippines.

COLLUSION

In a world packed with films intended to shock and immediately gratify, a film like *Collusion* stands out as a classy remnant of another era when people actually enjoyed participating more actively in the cinematic experience by utilizing the space between their ears. As characters Jack, Sally, and Darren are introduced we are made to feel unsure of just who they really are and where they're taking us. Everything is a big, mysterious puzzle right up to the end. Set in the world of London art security and art fraud, a world of looted paintings, fakes, and security cameras, it examines themes of betrayal and deception, of how images can sometimes just be a trick of the light. Directed by Richard Burridge/90 min/England.

DERAILROADED

A shocking and sensitive journey through the mind of paranoid-schizophrenic Larry "Wild Man" Fischer and his encounters in the music business. Institutionalized at 16 after attacking his mother with a knife, Fischer wandered the mean streets of L.A. singing his totally unique brand of songs for passersby. Discovered by Frank Zappa, with whom he cut his first record album, Fisher became an underground club favorite. Extensive archival footage from Fischer's early days traces his life from neglected child to tortured genius. Directed by Josh Rubin/86 min/USA.

DESIGN IN MOTION

As new motion picture technologies emerge, the face of experimental film continues to change. The shorts presented in this exhibit represent the international vision of a cutting-edge blend of traditional design mediums translated into film and video. The result is the next big thing on the big (and small) screen: design and photography merging together to form motion graphics.

DISCOVER ME

Three interwoven stories about the Internet's affect on the modern day relationships of eight ill-fated individuals. Peer into the developing connections of an agoraphobic painter and her male neighbor, a closet masochist with private longings, and a girl on the rebound who falls for a eunuch. Directed by Ryan Webb/82 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

EMERGING FILMMAKERS

Two shorts by local filmmakers. *Agent Jim*: All Jim wants to do is graduate college and save the world. Is that too much to ask? Directed by Sharon Chapman/30 min/USA. *A Dark Place*: Their world seemed normal, but shadows loomed. Directed by David Matheny/45 min/USA. **Filmmakers will attend screening.**

EMR

Londoner Adam Jones is stuck with a dreary job; lives alone with his cat; and gets his kicks chasing conspiracy theories around the Internet. His world changes completely after taking an experimental drug for his epilepsy. He starts to have seizures, blacks out and has terrifying visions. When he wakes up in Mexico, not knowing how he got there and missing a kidney he realizes that he is in the middle of a conspiracy. His reality crumbling, Adam sets out to learn more about the drug company. This quest turns out to be worse than his wildest conspiratorial nightmares and comes to a stunning climax. Directed by Danny McCullough and James Erskine/87 min/England. **This is a competition film.**

FILMIC ACHIEVEMENT

In New York City, the prestigious UNY Film School offers an intensive program where students learn the "biz" of filmmaking. But only one student can win the Filmic Achievement Award and the \$10,000 that goes with it. This send-up follows several obsessive, over-eager and mostly pretentious auteurs-in-training as they prepare for the biz. Their professor, Buck Felty, teaches the 13 steps of filmmaking but somehow only makes it to step #9. Loaded with inside jokes for filmmakers, there is still a lot for everyone to laugh at. Directed by Kevin Kerwin/79 min/USA.

G

Andrew Lauren Productions rocks the screen with this sexy and sophisticated interpretation of the American classic, *The Great Gatsby*. The cast is superb, led by Richard T. Jones playing the rugged complexity of Gatsby in the character of rapper mogul Summer G. Blair Underwood, Chenoa Maxwell, Andre Royo, and Andrew Lauren also turn in key performances. The story has a Gatsbyish hip hopper, Summer G, falling for an upper class woman while in college. She rejects him for a fellow social climber. Summer G wastes no time lamenting his loss and sets out to build a hip hop empire over the next ten years. When he buys a home in the Hamptons he rediscovers his old flame but faces other types of rejection. This is a fascinating look at current racial and status issues in our culture. Directed by Christopher Scott Cherot/96 min/USA. **Producer, Charles Drew Jr. and Actors, Jillian Lindsey and Sonja Sohn will attend screening. Opening Night Film.**

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

Tom Ditzler, a blind veteran, and his family have lived on their 17 acres of land for the last 33 years. In the year 2000, the local government used "quick take" (a faster version of eminent domain) to obtain their land, by claiming it was necessary to the community. A \$17 million highway was constructed that destroyed wetlands and Native American burial grounds. There was an alternate route less than a mile away that would have cost taxpayers \$15 million less. This is a special rough-cut screening. Audience members will be asked to voice their opinions and potentially change the face of the film. Director will accept comments after the screening. Directed by Rusty Nails/110 min/USA. **Q and A with the filmmaker following the show.**

HISTORY LESSONS

A montage of film clips and stills that celebrates lesbianism and, at times, playfully rewrites history. Called an "imaginative assertion of Gay Pride throughout the 20th century, one that identifies, invents, and/or smirkingly implies gleeful lesbian sexuality in every cultural nook and cranny." Directed by Barbara Hammer/65 min/USA. **Followed by Q & A session with Ms. Hammer.**

IFC BETWEEN THE LINES COMPETITION

The Independent Filmmaker's Coalition in Kansas City offers another fun, competitive short film idea for this year's KIFF. Filmmakers were instructed to begin their 1-3 minute short film with the line "Why do our conversations always seem to start like this?" and then end their film with the line, "Well, there's one thing you didn't count on." What the filmmakers produce between those beginning and ending lines will determine the winner. The judge is acclaimed indie director Rusty Nails.

IMPORTED CROWS

A witty and contemplative film about people's observations on the evil of a certain type of crow. The hilarious but also absurd and scary remarks of some of the citizens reflect public opinion on everything that is different and unfamiliar. Thanks to excellent editing, the film turns out to be a powerfully revealing political piece. It is a student work completed on a budget of only 100 euros. Directed by Goran Devic/22 min/Croatia.

JESUS, MARY & JOEY

An incredible cast, including Charles Durning, Tess Harper, Olympia Dukakis, Stacy Keach and others. A light-hearted romantic comedy about Joey, an aimless twenty-something, his friends, and his colorful Italian-American family, the Vitellos. Joey meets the girl who may be "the one," and tries to follow his heart, asking questions about religion along the way. When Joey challenges his family's faith with his newfound revelations, chaos ensues as they all search for a miracle of their own. Directed by James Quattrochi/105 min/USA.

JUST TO GET A REP

More than thirty years ago, youth in neglected neighborhoods around the U.S. started spray-painting on available surfaces. The energy and freedom of this expression has inspired youth throughout the world to the dismay of local authorities. Aerosol artists have developed a unique worldwide culture based on respect, camaraderie, and a shared struggle to re-create their environments. This film examines the love/hate relationship between graffiti and hip-hop. Hear the story of aerosol art as told by the pioneers and today's innovators. Directed by Peter Gerard/58 min/USA-Europe. **This is a competition film.**

KIFF AUDIENCE ENCORE PRESENTATION

On closing night we'll repeat the movie that our festival audience is clamoring to see. It might be a sold-out show from earlier in the week or a movie that folks want to recommend to their friends. Audience members will vote during the festival after each screening, and we'll bring back the most requested film from our Friday through Tuesday screenings. If you missed it the first time, don't miss it now!

LATE BREAKING NEWS

You see the news stories, now you can see the fascinating story of the people behind the news who produce the material for local newscasts. This documentary details the world of the people who prowl the streets of Chicago for breaking news and sometimes find themselves on the scene of horrible tragedies. This illuminating and engrossing film centers on cameraman Ken Herzlich who, with his crack team of fellow cameramen and radio-spotters, covers the night beat and records then sells the footage to local news stations. Directed by Jon Knoll/86 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

LEELA

This is a complex coming-of-age story set in the culture of India. You will hear the seductive intimacy of Indian music, with songs by composer Gulzar sung by the great Jagit Singh. Beautiful Leela leaves India to take a professorship at a Southern California university, teaching world culture studies. Her marriage to Nashaad is falling apart due to his continued womanizing. One of her students, Kris, is trying to leave his Indian heritage behind as he tries to be "more American than Americans." Relationships and cultural problems get entangled as the complicated plot moves along. Directed by Somnath Sen/96 min/India-USA.

LIFE AND MIGRAINE

Over 20 million people in the U.S.A. suffer from migraine headaches. Many of those people are dissatisfied with the treatment they receive from friends, family and medical professionals. Most don't understand the debilitating nature of the ailment. This documentary is about the lives of 13 people who live with migraines. It also includes the story of a fictional woman and her struggles with the headaches. Her experiences serve as a segue into the real-life stories of the other sufferers. Directed by Daniel and Ed Messina/60 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

LUCID UNDERGROUND MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

LUMAF presents 20 experimental shorts in two installments. Covering a wide array of topics, including zombies, mental disorders, gerbils, technology, gutter punks, and the meaning of life, these films were created by filmmakers from all over the U.S. and Canada. LUMAF was created in 2003 by Luci Harper. This is the first collaboration with KIFF and the second edition of LUMAF. Details of each film can be found at www.lucidunderground.com.

MARDI GRAS: MADE IN CHINA

A film from the *Sundance Channel Film Series Presented by Human Rights Watch*. Did you ever wonder where the infamous beads come from that are part of Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans? This documentary tracks the "bead trail" from the factory in China to Bourbon Street during Mardi Gras. Along the trail of this journey you will see how globalization has affected the factory workers in China and the factory owner (whose view is much different from that of the laborers.). Wait till you see the reactions of Mardi Gras partygoers when shown the living conditions of the Chinese workers and the bead makers when they see where their beads end up. This is consumerism exposed. Directed by David Redmon/60 min/USA.

THE NUDE RESTAURANT

Andy Warhol shot two versions of *The Nude Restaurant* on the same day at the Mad Hatter restaurant in October 1967. One version had an all male nude cast. This one has males and females wearing g-strings and was one of Warhol's series of sexploitation films or "nudies" as he liked to call them. The people at the restaurant are mostly nude as the title suggests. The conversations of the scantily-clad denizens are quite interesting. You will eavesdrop on one conversation that serves as a precursor to the sexual molestation problems in the Catholic priesthood that we know today. You'll also hear references to the horrors of the Viet Nam war that were unavoidable at the time this was filmed. Don't expect a plot. Directed by Andy Warhol/95 min/USA

OCCUPATION: DREAMLAND

A film from the *Sundance Channel Film Series Presented by Human Rights Watch*. This documentary was made less than one year after President Bush declared "Mission accomplished" in the Iraq war. Featuring a series of remarkably candid interviews with a squad's soldiers who detail their sometimes shocking daily life and the creeping disillusionment with their mission. *Occupation: Dreamland* brings a first-hand view of the moral and operational complexities inherent in American warfare in the 21st Century. As the conflict escalates, distrust between the Iraqi civilians in Fallujah and the U.S. soldiers increases, leading to greater confusion and skepticism on all sides. This is the frightening look at the assault on Fallujah in Spring 2004 that the U.S. news outlets didn't bring into your living rooms. Directed by Garrett Scott and Ian Olds/78 min/USA.

OMAGH

A film from the *Sundance Channel Film Series Presented by Human Rights Watch*. In June of 1998, all of Ireland, north and south of the border, was prepared to vote for peace in the Good Friday referendum. A small group of dissident Provisional IRA members set out to create a bomb outrage so bloody and calamitous that London and Dublin would be driven apart, unionists would withdraw from the peace process, and Northern Ireland would return to violent conflict. *Omagh* examines the tragic events caused by the bomb that claimed 31 lives and devastated the Northern Ireland town of Omagh. Catholics and Protestants in Omagh had coexisted peacefully throughout thirty years of the "troubles." Now you can hear the story of Omagh from the point of view of the true victims of this violence, the ordinary people caught between the militants. Directed by Pete Travis/106 min/Ireland.

THE PASSAGE

Andy wants to know what led to the murder of his girlfriend Sarah. What follows is more than a snapshot of the life of Andy's world as a small-time crook. *The Passage* takes you on a tour of human nature through Andy's encounters with crooked cops, opportunistic criminals, innocent victims, and some highly stylized fighting and gun-shooting sequences. As the tour progresses, dark secrets are slowly revealed that eventually change the outlook of the tour's final destination. Directed by Daniel Casey-VanHout/81 min/USA. **This is a competition film.**

PEACEABLE KINGDOM

At a time when the public is more concerned than ever about the health and environmental problems associated with large-scale factory farming, *Peaceable Kingdom* explores another angle of this unfolding story: the interconnected life journeys of farm animals, former farmers, and animal rescuers struggling against an out of control industrial system. A truly provocative film. Directed by Jenny Stein/70 min/USA. **This is a competition film.**

PEARL DIVER

Two sisters are haunted by the murder, twenty years ago, of their mother. When the six year old daughter of one sister is badly injured in a farm accident, the other sister comes back to help with the injured girl's recovery. As the sisters try to work around their differences, secrets from their shared past unfold. What do those secrets hold for them? Winner of *Best Feature Film* awards at the Winnipeg and Indianapolis International Film Festivals and the Lake Michigan Film Festival. Directed by Sidney King/95 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening.**

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA – ALLOY ORCHESTRA

World premier of the newly restored definitive print of the 1925 Lon Chaney classic, with a live score performed by the world famous Alloy Orchestra. The film has been restored in the very complex original color scheme and has been printed with 218 tint changes from the original. The film also includes the original 2 strip Technicolor "Bal Masque" scene from preservationist David Shepard and a digitally recreated scene-the lost Technicolor scene. The Alloy Orchestra (Roger Miller, Ken Winokur, Terry Donahue) is the country's best-known accompanists of silent films, and has performed everywhere from the Louvre, Lincoln Center, Telluride, the National Gallery, the Academy of Motion Pictures to film festivals, universities and museums. Come and experience a once in a lifetime cinema event. Directed by Rupert Julian/101 min/USA.

A PLACE LIKE THIS

Explore the lives and dreams of four women who live at the Catholic-run residence Jeanne d'Arc. Initially intending to stay a short while, the harsh reality of life in New York City leads them to prefer the restrictive environment at Jeanne d'Arc on a long-term basis. Witness the emotional upheaval they experience when they're told they must leave by the Sisters of Divine Providence. Directed by Yvonne Kenney/59 min/USA. Sponsored by Beta Sigma Phi International. **This is a competition film.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BLUES

This is a feature documentary that follows the story of Michael Newdow, the California physician who brought the landmark "under God" lawsuit to the United States Supreme Court. The film also follows the controversy over the Ten Commandments monument placed in the Alabama State Courthouse, and investigates the intertwining of religion and government in American history and identity. Directed by Lisa Seidenberg/72 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

PRETTY DYANA

An intimate look at Kosovo's Roma refugees in a Belgrade suburb who make a living by transforming classic Citroen "Dyana" cars into Mad Max-like vehicles which they use to collect recycle materials like cardboard, bottles, and scrap metal. The vehicles mean freedom, hope, and style for their crafty owners. They even use the car batteries as generators to provide power for lights and other conveniences around "home." But the police don't always find these strange vehicles funny or legal. Directed by Boris Mitic/Serbia.

RANA'S WEDDING

Shot on location in East Jerusalem and Ramallah. This is a romantic and compelling portrait of love under occupation and everyday life turned upside down. When Rana is faced with an ultimatum-choose a husband from a list of eligible, respectable men or leave for Egypt-she goes searching for a lover of her own choosing. Moving across checkpoints to the West Bank, finding a wedding dress in a war zone, and settling family differences all in just ten hours, Rana finds that in Jerusalem, love has many roadblocks. Directed by Hany Abu-Assad/90 min/Palestine.

RAZOR EATERS

Blurring the lines between right and wrong, the story centers on the exploits of five young Australian men and the acts of violence they commit against those they feel have wronged society. Loosely based on true events, the rampaging young men videotape their violent escapades. The director's depiction of violent murders, torture, fire and blood are harsh and brutal yet thought-provoking. Directed by Shannon Young/96 min/Australian. **Filmmaker will attend screening – direct from Australia.**

RED COCKROACHES

Winner of 20 film festival awards around the world. First in a trilogy, this film is set against a backdrop of a New York ravaged with acid rains in a society permeated with the suspect ethical values of the ominous DNA21 Corporation. A man meets a mysterious woman who disrupts the banality of his day-to-day existence. Together, they embark on an obsessive-destructive journey revealing dark secrets and forbidden desires. Mysterious and seductive, often disturbing, this unclassifiable piece of cinema offers very few answers as it plays with our genre expectations, taking us on a surreal journey with a devastating climax. Directed by Miguel Coyula/82 min/Cuba-USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening.**

RESISTING PARADISE

This experimental documentary juxtaposes the lives of painters Henri Matisse and Pierre Bonnard during World War II with those of several French Resistance fighters combating Nazis and helping Holocaust victims. It examines the questions "How can art exist during a time of war?" and "What are our responsibilities during political crises?" Directed by Barbara Hammer/80 min/USA. Sponsored by Midwest Center for Holocaust Education. **Followed by Q & A session with Ms. Hammer and Dr. Fran Sternberg.**

SMILE

Based on true events and Operation Smile, the organization of doctors who have done reconstructive surgery on over 80,000 disadvantaged patients all over the world. It is the parallel story of two teenage girls: Katie, a high school girl from Los Angeles who gets involved with a program called "Doctor's Gift" and volunteers to go to China; and Lin, a disfigured Chinese girl who Katie meets and helps. Much of the film was shot on location in China. Starring Sean Austin, Beau Bridges, Linda Hamilton and Cheri Oteri. Directed by Jeffrey Kramer/107 min/USA.

SPECIAL ED

Dr. David Edwards is a cancer specialist and his life is his work. He has no family and only one friend, his 73 year-old psychiatrist. David had always believed that everyone deserved a chance with his experimental cancer treatment, until Sonny Rollins walked into his office asking for help. Sonny is a crass, crude, jerk with an attitude. David's history with Sonny from high school is an unpleasant one. Is Sonny's bullying treatment of David in high school reason enough to exclude Sonny from David's cancer treatment program? Sometimes healing has nothing to do with medicine. Directed by Jeffrey Phelps/108 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. Closing Night Film.**

SUNDANCE FILMS

Films from the Sundance Channel Film Series Presented by Human Rights Watch. See individual listings for *Omagh*; *Mardi Gras: Made In China*; and *Occupation Dreamland*.

SUNNYVALE

When a junk food eating, adult-film watching loser extraordinaire has a chance meeting with a good-looking girl, he decides it might be time to get up off the couch and check out this thing called dating. What follows is one man's hilarious, edgy, and sweet attempt to navigate the turbulent waters of relationships. The novice dater finds himself in an increasingly troublesome romantic juggling act as he dates 3 girls at once. This is a fun and unpredictable look at the never-ending mysteries of love. Directed by James Ricardo/80 min/USA. **This is a competition film.**

TAYLOR MEAD'S ASS

This Warhol film was made as a direct response to a letter, which appeared in *The Village Voice* in August 1964, deriding Jonas Mekas for his praise of avant-garde cinema, such as "films focusing on Taylor Mead's ass for two hours." Mead replied in the next issue, "Andy Warhol and I have searched the archives of the Warhol colossus and found no [such film]. We are rectifying this oversight with the unlimited resources at our command." Despite its origin as a joke, the film is a wonderfully witty performance by Mead, who, with the help of a few props, becomes remarkably expressive and inventive with this rather limited portion of his anatomy. This film will be shown in much the same way it was originally intended – at a party. **Opening Weekend Party, Saturday, September 10th.** Directed by Andy Warhol/76 min B & W, silent/USA.

WAGING A LIVING

If you work full time you should not be poor, but more than 30 million Americans - one in four workers - are stuck in low wage jobs that do not provide the basics for a decent life. Award-winning Director/Producer Roger Weisberg chronicles the battle of four low-wage workers to lift their families out of poverty. This observational documentary captures the dreams, frustrations, and accomplishments of a diverse group of workers who struggle to live from paycheck to paycheck. By presenting an unvarnished look at the barriers that these workers must overcome to escape poverty it offers a sobering view of the elusive American dream. Directed by Roger Weisberg/85 min/USA. **This is a competition film.**

WAITING TO INHALE

This multiple award-winning documentary examines the current debate over legalizing medical marijuana in the United States. Ten states have passed legislation permitting medical marijuana, but opponents claim that patients who advocate legalization are only smokescreens for the legalization altogether. *Waiting to Inhale* explores every side of the conflict, taking viewers inside the lives of individuals who've been uniquely affected by terminal illness and drug use. Is there scientific evidence to support the claim that marijuana can treat the painful symptoms of illnesses such as cancer, AIDS, and multiple sclerosis? The film sheds new light on this controversial struggle, presenting exclusive access to the first medical studies on smoked cannabis in over thirty years. Directed by Jed Riffe/85 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**

WARHOL SHORT FILM SERIES

These Andy Warhol films are usually viewed in a museum setting. This is the first time they will be screened at a film festival. Shorts include **Couch**: this Warhol film includes the only known footage of three famous Beat writers-Alan Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, and Jack Kerouac-together at the same time. It is also Warhol's notoriously pornographic silent film. It features the usual personalities from Warhol's factory in various nonchalant situations: On a couch, eating bananas, fixing a motorcycle, engaging in sexual activities. Directed by Andy Warhol/52 min/USA. **Salvador Dali**: a silent "EPI background" reel, intended for projection behind the Velvet Underground band during performances of the Exploding Plastic Inevitable. It contains original screen tests of the mustachioed Dali, followed by Nico, Sterling Morrison, and Lou Reed. The film ends with two WHIP DANCE rolls, in which Gerard Malanga and Mary Woronov perform their S & M dance routine from the EPI for Warhol's camera. Directed by Andy Warhol/22 min B & W, silent/USA. And finally: **Mario Banana No. 1**, a short film with Mario Montez, the well-known drag performer who also appeared in many Jack Smith films, suggestively eating a banana in close-up. This film, which won an award at the 1965 Los Angeles Film Festival, is an important precursor to *Harlot*, in which Montez elaborates on his performance. Directed by Andy Warhol/3.5 min/USA.

For Adults Only – No one under 18 admitted.

WHY NEAL

This is documentary filmmaking at its most raw but also at its most engaging. Neal Hecker is a collage artist living at home with his mother and her boyfriend. Neal is mentally unstable and trying to live life on his own terms. This fascinating portrait of his life will touch you and ask you to examine things such as the nature of friendships, parenting and art. Directed by Chris DeLeo/86 min/USA. **Filmmaker will attend screening. This is a competition film.**