

## Film, Family and Fun at the Festival



Press Release

### Chicago International Children's Film Festival Runs October 22 - November 1, 2009

#### Kids Explore the Wide World of Film at the 26th Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival!

For Immediate Release:

**Chicago, IL - September 24, 2009** - The 26th annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival (CICFF), the largest and most prestigious children's film festival in the U.S., kicks off October 22nd and runs through November 1st. Once again, kids and parents will have the opportunity to view handpicked films from around the world that entertain and educate both kids and adults at theaters across the city.



The 26th Annual CICFF will screen 265 films from 40 countries this year including 75 World premieres, 62 North American premieres, 41 U.S. premieres, and 71 Chicago premieres. Each entry is carefully selected by the Festival's experienced staff and filtered through a series of child focus groups. The films are also watched by adult juries, which help pick the winning entries.

"Now in its 26th year, the CICFF continues to deliver premier children's entertainment. Out of 1,000 films submitted, we've chosen movies that are rich in values and introduce kids to cultures from around the world," says CICFF programmer Ann Vikstrom. "But the CICFF is far more than a festival - for kids, it's a chance to interact with filmmakers, make movies and vote for their favorite films." More than 100 directors attend the CICFF each year and children of all ages get to talk to the filmmakers who made the movies they just saw.

#### Communication Is the Key at the CICFF

The CICFF empowers children to be both critics and creators of media. CICFF Founder/Artistic Director Nicole Dreiske believes that festivals provide a special forum for dialogue, giving kids the chance to talk about what they watch. "Talking about movies is fun, and it helps kids process what they've just watched. That's something we need to encourage. Festival Q and A's, ballots and discussions promote dialogue about the films so children start thinking about what they're watching and examining their own perceptions and responses.

Among the Festival's innovative programs are the Take One! Workshops. These hands - on master classes provide active learning opportunities for kids interested in movie-making. This year, actor Alimi Ballard (*Numb3rs*, *Deep Impact*) will host Acting the Part! for aspiring actors ages 9-14. The Stop-Motion Magic workshop brings to Chicago, LAIKA Animation Studios, the talented team that brought the hit movie *Coraline* to the screen. Unique to the Festival are My First Movies screenings for children ages 2-5. These immensely popular programs are the first to screen each day, and showcase the best in



international film for pre-school age children.

### New Venue

The Festival will be presented at Facets Multi-Media, Inc., 1517 W. Fullerton; Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. King Dr.; the Wilmette Theater, 1122 Central Avenue; the Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago Ave.; Kerasotes Showplace 14, 2600 N. Western Avenue.

Additionally, this year the CICFF expands to Portage Park with screenings on October 23, 24 and 25th at the Bank of America Cinema. Located at 4901 W. Irving Park Rd., the Bank of America Cinema, seats 300 and is located in the back of the Bank of America building. CICFF Operations Manager Kathleen Beckman enthuses, "The Portage Park neighborhood is wonderfully diverse and so are CICFF programs so it's a great match for us." Turn south on Lavergne from Irving Park Road to access the theater and large, free parking lot.

### Featured Premieres

The live-action British feature ***From Time To Time***, stars Timothy Spall ("Wormtail" to fans of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*), Maggie Smith (*Gosford Park*, *California Suite*), Alex Etel (*The Waterhorse*), and Dominic West (*The Wire*) in a tale of ghosts and time travel.



Irish entry, ***A Shine of Rainbows***, stars Aidan Quinn (*Legends of the Fall*) and Connie Nielsen (*Gladiator*). This touching film about an orphan adopted by a couple on magnificent Corrie Island, is directed by Vic Sarin. Quinn will attend the second week of the Festival.

***Lippel's Dream*** is based on the book of the same title by popular German children's author Paul Marr. The film is a magical, fantastic tale of a lonely boy who escapes - literally - to his own imagination.

***Through A Glass, Darkly*** directed by Jesper Nielsen, is a mystical Christmas tale of angels, dreams, and love. Based on Jostein Gaarder's book of the same title, this Norwegian feature stars Liv Ullmann.

Wallace and Gromit will steal the show with the Chicago premier of ***A Matter of Loaf and Death***, in which Gromit keeps Wallace from baking up too much trouble!



### Special Events

The opening night gala will be held Thursday, October 22nd at the Thorne Auditorium, 375 E. Chicago, Ave. (on the corner of Lake Shore Drive and Chicago), with a reception at 6:00 p.m. and film presentation at 7:45. This action-packed event will be overflowing with activities for the whole family including dancing with Radio Disney's party Patrol. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$25 for children. Children's Jury and Facets Patron Circle members are Free!

The CICFF Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 1st, at Film Row Cinema - Columbia College Chicago. Hundreds of filmmakers will attend to learn the winners of the Montgomery Prizes -- \$2,500 cash prizes for the best child-produced film and best film by an

emerging director. The evening culminates with the award of the \$10,000 cash prize for the best Poetry-Based Film.

The Festival features 11 days of films, then continues with four additional weeks of special screenings for schools. The CICFF also presents year-round screenings, filmmaking workshops, and programs for Chicago Public Schools, both at the schools and at Facets Cinemathèque in West Lincoln Park. Founded in 1983, the Festival continues to welcome audiences of over 26,000 every fall. For schedule and ticket information, visit [www.cicff.org](http://www.cicff.org)

###

Facets Multi-Media, Inc. gratefully acknowledges support from the following: 9 Surf Studios, Stuart and Benjamin Abelson Foundation Trust, Gary Alfredson, Alphawood Foundation, American Airlines, Bosco Productions, Calabash Animation, Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Parent, Chicago Recording Company, Chicago Sun Times, Comer Foundation Fund, Howard & Doris Conant, Pam and Howard Conant, Maggie Daley, Days Inn Chicago, Emoto Music, Grail Interactive, Hot Topic Foundation, Illinois Arts, Council - Governor's International Exchange Program, Illinois Film Office, Irving Harris Foundation, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Bill Mayer Design, Hilary and Ian McCutcheon, Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation, Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Foundation, The Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust, Museum of Science and Industry - Science Chicago, National Endowment for the Arts, Park National Bank, The Poetry Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Radio Disney AM, 1300, Seabury Foundation, William Wood Skinner Foundation, Wrightwood Neighbors Association, WMAQ - NBC5.

Contact:  
Sara Engel  
Press Coordinator  
[kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:kidsfest@facets.org)  
CICFF/Facets  
1517 W. Fullerton  
Chicago, IL 60614  
Tel: 773-281-9075  
Fax: 773-929-0266

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [facetsvideosales@facets.org](mailto:facetsvideosales@facets.org) by [kidsfest@facets.org](mailto:kidsfest@facets.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Facets Multi-Media, Inc. | 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. | Chicago | IL | 60614