

Media Coverage

Articles

American Word, (American University) 9/20/07, "An Overview and Review of the DC Shorts Film Festival" by Mike Shubbuck. Festival review, photos and interviews with filmmakers and festival director, Jon Gann found in online edition.

Blip, (DCTV Newsletter), August 2007, "DC Shorts Film Festival" Highlight on the upcoming festival and DC Shorts work with DCTV's summer camp for kids.

Georgetown Voice, 9/13/07, "Film festival not short on inspiration" by Tae Jung Choi. Interview with Jon Gann.

GW Hatchet (George Washington University) 9/20/07, "Fourth annual D.C. Shorts Festival highlights artists" by Calder Stempel. Festival review and interviews with several filmmakers and Jon Gann.

MovieMaker Magazine, Winter 2007, "Keeping it Short" by Jennifer Wood. Short story about the festival in their upcoming festival section. Found on pg. 122.

Roll Call, 9/13/07, "Shorts Get Their 15 Minutes" by Brandace Simmons. Highlighting festival with interviews with filmmakers and Jon Gann.

The Downtowner, 9/5/07, "Arts on Foot" Short Mention about the free kids screening as part of the "Arts on Foot" festival.

The Eagle, 9/17/07, "Festival provides outlet for short films" by Donna Ledbetter. Interviews with filmmakers about importance of short filmmaking.

The Hill

The Polictio, 9/13/07, "Amuse-bouche politics" by Helena Andrews. Highlights the politically focused films and their filmmakers.

Urbancode Magazine, July 2007, "Jon Gann" by Russell Nohelty. Four page cover story profile on Jon Gann, filmmaker and DC Shorts Festival Director with photos.

Wall Street Journal 9/19/07, "All Things Digital" by columnist Walt Mossberg. Shot mention on how to find directions to an event using a cell phone.

Washington Blade, 9/07/07, "Shortchanged no more" by Katherine Volin. Article about GBLT centered films with interviews with local filmmaker Rick Hammerly and Jon Gann and photos.

Washington City Paper, 9/26/07, "About Face" by Matthew Borlik. Profile on local filmmaker Rick Hammerly after his Best Local Film win at the DC Shorts Film Festival.

Washington Jewish Week 8/29/07, "Conflicting film festival" by Jaciyn Schiff. Article resulted in a letter to the Editor criticizing the reporter for focusing on the date rather the number of Jewish inspired films being shown.

Washington Post Express: Weekend Pass, 9/13/07, "Those Little Things Count" by Arion Berger. Short blip on festival as an upcoming event found on E18.

Washington Post: Style on the Go, 9/13/07, "Across Downtown, Hoofing It for Art" by Lavanya Ramanathan. Mentioned as part of Arts on Foot found on C13.

Washington Post: Style on the Go, 9/15/07, "They Show Short Shorts" by Lavanya Ramanathan. Short article highlighting local filmmakers with photos found on C12.

Washington Post: Sunday Source, 9/02/07, "Beyond the Mall" by Christina Breda Antoniadis. Jon Gann chosen as one of 21 Notables in the District on N2.

Listings

Channel 8 News, Calendar listing on web site.

DCmag.com, Listed event on calendar.

E Street Cinema, Coming Attractions listing.

Four Seasons Hotel, Listed as something to see in the Guest Letter for September.

Hill Rag, Sept. 2007, Listing under Film Events with a picture on pg 32-33.

Northern Virginia Magazine, September 2007, Listing under "Events guide". Logo on calendar page with a short blip Pg. 48.

Out in DC, 8/31/07, "Scene" A short piece under the September 13 listing.

RFK Memorial, 9/19/07, List serve e-mail about LunaFest and RFK Memorial benefit as part of DC Shorts.

The Northwest Current, 9/05/07, "Events & entertainment" compiled by Julio Arguello Jr. Listing under September 13.

Washingtonian, September 2007, Listing in the event guide under film "Film".

Washington Informer, Calendar listing for September 13.

Washington Post: Style on the go, 9/07/07, "Save the Date" by Lavanya Ramanathan. Short piece found on C11.

Washington Post: Sunday Source, 9/9/07 "Our Picks" Listing under film for the following week of events.

Washington Post: Weekend, 9/07/07 Short blip on inside cover.

Where Magazine, DC, September 2007, Listing under "Hot Dates September"

WRC-TV4, Community Calendar listing on web site

Radio and Television

Comcast Newsmakers, Five minute profile with Jon Gann about the DC Shorts. Broadcast on the Comcast Channel during the weeks of August 20 and September 3, 2007.

WAMU 88.5 FM, 9/17/07, "Art Beat" Mentioned during News. <http://www.wamu.org/news/07/09/18.php>

WUSA, 9/08/07, "9 News Now Saturday" Jon Gann was a guest on the Saturday morning news program.

Web sites/Blogs

After Hours Blog, 9/11/07, "The Lookout: DC Shorts Film Festival" by Alejandro Salinas. Blog highlighting upcoming festival. <http://www.washingtonian.com/blogarticles/artsfun/afterhours/5247.html>

Artdc.org, Calendar posting with event information.

Brightestyoungthings.com, 9/13/07, "Best Weekend Bets" by Svetlana Legetic. Short piece on things to see/do over the weekend. <http://www.brightestyoungthings.com/byt-recommends/best-weekend-bets-7/>

Brightestyoungthings.com, 9/18/07, "Photos: DC Film Shorts Opening Party" by Svetlana Legetic. Short piece with photos about the festival and opening night party at Poste Brasserie. <http://www.brightestyoungthings.com/movies/photos-dc-film-shorts-opening-party/>

Butler Films, Inc, 6/20/07, Blog by Local filmmaker David Butler. <http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=137799382&blogID=278548639>

Daily Candy, 9/13/07, "The Weekend Guide" http://www.dailycandy.com/washington_dc/article/32170?media

DCPalaver, 9/13/07, "Arts on Foot" DC Shorts mentioned as part of Arts on Foot. <http://www.mbpalaver.com/mbpalaver/2007/09/dcpalaver.htm>

DC Scene, 9/14/07, "DC Shorts Film Festival In Full Spin" Event information found on NBC4.com

E-Notes, 9/01/07, Short mention. <http://eethelbertmiller1.blogspot.com/>

Eidolon Films, 6/18/07, "DC Shorts 2007, here we come!" Blog by local filmmakers Tessa Moran and Ben Crosbie. <http://eidolonfilms.wordpress.com/2007/06/18/33/>

Evolve Happy, 9/07/07, "DC Shorts Film Festival" http://evolvehappy.blogspot.com/2007_09_01_archive.html

FestivalFocus.org, 8/31/07, "September Film Festivals from festivalfocus.org" <http://www.festivalfocus.org>

IdealistDC, 9/10/07, "DC Shorts Begins Thursday! Are Your Ready to Get Reel?" Short piece on festival. <http://idealistdc.wordpress.com/2007/09/10/dc-shorts-begins-thursday-are-your-ready-to-get-reel/>

IndieExpress, 9/19-20/07, "DC Shorts Fest 1-3" http://festblogs.blogspot.com/2007_09_01_archive.html

Joe Flood, 8/24/07, "DC Shorts in September!" <http://joeflood.com/2007/08/24/dc-shorts-in-september/>

KendrickHang.com, 9/18/07, "2007 DC Shorts Film Festival" <http://www.kendrickhang.com/ken/blog/2007/09/2007-dc-shorts-film-festival.html>

Mid Atlantic Arts News, 9/05/07, "DC Shorts Film Festival" <http://dcartnews.blogspot.com/2007/09>

NotForTourist.com, 9/12/07, "DC Shorts Film Festival at E Street Cinema" by Jade Floyd. <http://www.notfortourist.com>

Ourstage.com, 10/15/07, "Ourstage @ DC Shorts" DC Shorts Sponsor. Festivals blog by EJ. <http://ejblog.ourstage.com/>

Penn Quarter Living, 9/07/07, "2007 DC Shorts Film Festival Comes To E Street" <http://pqliving.com/?p=868>

Ross Notes, 9/14/07, "DC Shorts Film Festival" Ross Karchner's Technology blog. <http://rossnotes.com/archives/2007/09/14/dc-shorts-film-festival/>

Rough Cut, *Washington City Paper* blog about DC Shorts by Dave Nuttycombe. Blog had video interviews with Jon and several filmmakers attending the festival.

The DCist, 9/13/07, "About Tonight" http://dcist.com/2007/09/13/about_tonight_68.php

The DCist, 9/13/07, "Popcorn and Candy: From Russia with Menace" http://dcist.com/2007/09/13/popcorn_candy_f_1.php

Upcoming.com, 9/13/07 "DC Shorts Film Festival" <http://upcoming.yahoo.com/event/241630/>

When & Where Blog, 9/13/07, "What to do this Weekend" Catherine Andrews <http://www.washingtonian.com/blogarticles/5255.html>

Wonkette, 9/15/07, "The To Do List is Back" <http://wonkette.com/politic/to-do/hey-to-do-list-is-back-too-300123.php>

Excerpts from various articles

Those Little Things Count

By Arion Berger
September 13, 2007; E18

Here they come, marching on their tiny feet, little fists waving—it's the 2007 crop of D.C. shorts. They're the stars of this year's D.C. Shorts film festival, the annual celebration of the cinematically short, sharp and shocking that includes comedies, dramas, documentaries, memoirs, animation and live-action films—anything, really, as long as it's not two hours long and doesn't star, like, Ben Affleck. The people behind the festival cull shorts from all over, but like to focus on and emphasize contributions from our own homegrown talent.

Across Downtown, Hoofing It for Art

By Lavanya Ramanathan
September 13, 2007; C13

For families, the D.C. Shorts Film Festival presents funny family shorts, including "Chinese Dumpling," about sisters fed up with violin lessons, and "The Planning Lady," about a guidance counselor's pressure sale on a 7-year-old. Free (but get tickets beginning at 11 at the D.C. Shorts Pavilion, Eighth and F streets). 1 p.m. at Landmark's E Street Cinema. 555 11th St. NW (at E Street).

Short Takes

September 07, 2007; W2

The DC Shorts Film Festival, opening Thursday, will screen 89 films from around the world in a week at Landmark's E Street Cinema in Washington. These films are less than 25 minutes each and are bundled into eight programs. On Sept. 15, there will be an afternoon of free children's movies and an evening of script readings. Tickets for most events cost \$12; a VIP all-access pass is \$125.

They Show Short Shorts

By Lavanya Ramanathan
September 15, 2007; C12

Working in inch-size bites ourselves, we empathize with filmmakers who create shorts, those 100-calorie-packs of cinematic exploration that rarely stretch beyond 15 minutes.

The ever-growing D.C. Shorts Film Festival is bringing nearly 90 of these morsels our way over the next week. Some of the offerings of the international fest, which continues through Thursday:

Today, follow up the Arts on Foot festival with the screenwriters competition. The event, which is fairly offbeat for movie festivals, will have actors reading live from seven scripts. \$12. 6 p.m. (Also at 6 p.m. is a separate screening of shorts that includes the local flick "Barberin," Ben Crosbie's seven-minute look at a day in a District barbershop. A 3 p.m. screening features "Truth or Dare," about friends trying to catch a peep at a topleless sunbather.)

At 9 p.m. is a screening of the eight-minute flick "The O Word," and the totally epic (it's a whole 15 minutes!) Colombian movie "20 mil," both of which we hear are worth seeing. In "O," a bride's mother locks up her daughter to prevent her from making a huge mistake. "20 mil" follows a pair of 7-year-old friends whose bond is tested ... when they begin selling cookies on the school bus.

The festival also features all kinds of affiliated parties and a free family screening today at 1 (get tickets at 11 a.m. at the D.C. Shorts Arts on Foot booth, Eighth and F streets NW). Film tickets, \$12. All at the E Street Cinema near Metro Center. 555 11th St. NW. For a full schedule and tickets, visit <http://www.dshorts.com>.

Shortchanged no more D.C. Shorts Film Festival gives local filmmakers a boost

By Katherine Volin

Short films tend to get the, well, short end of the stick when it comes to film appreciation. Who can remember which film won best Live Action Short at last year's Academy Awards? (It was "West Bank Story.")

Jon Gann, a local gay filmmaker, noticed while traveling with his films at various film festivals that movies often take a backseat to the parties and schmoozing that mark so many festivals

Gann decided to address that issue when he started the D.C. Shorts Film Festival, now in its fourth year.

"I wanted something that was about film and filmmakers, so I wanted to do something about shorts because shorts are not really given — they're kind of the afterthought," Gann says.

Eighty-nine films were selected out of the 434 entries for the competition. The films will be shown Sept. 13-20 at E Street Cinema, 555 11th St., NW.

"[We saw] much fewer comedies — a lot of dramas this year," Gann says about the selected films. "A lot of war-themed films, films about people being upset about the war in Iraq."

Filmmakers who were lucky enough to be chosen will get a warm welcome from Gann and the rest of the festival's organizers.

"We will find you housing in a private home. We have deals with nine different restaurants who provide you with meals. Anything we can do to make things easier for you to stay here," Gann says. "As someone who has traveled the film circuit, it can get really expensive really fast."

If all the focus on comfort and hospitality has the faint ring of a gay hand in the mix, that's probably right, Gann admits.

"It's probably very much a combination of my queer and Jewish sensibilities — are you OK? Do you have enough to eat?" he says.

Gann says he also tries to provide time for socializing among filmmakers so they can chat and work on ideas for future collaborations. One couple who met at a D.C. Shorts filmmaker event even got married, he says.

Despite the wide interest in the festival, Gann tries to maintain a D.C. flavor for the event.

"We try to make sure that we show local films," Gann says. "Unfortunately, local filmmakers don't have much opportunity to show their wares."

Eighteen of the films are local, and four of those include gay and lesbian content or are by gay and lesbian filmmakers.

"We have many fewer gay and lesbian films than in the past," Gann says. "That's been kind of an issue this year. There's fewer quality films to choose from. That's diplomatic."

"Hearts of Glass" by filmmaker Vincent Gaines is a documentary on the work of gay glass artist Tim Tate. Tate's sexual orientation isn't explored in the 20-minute piece; the film focuses on the slow process of creating a work of glass art.

"415 M Street" is a house that has served as a home for young Jewish men, older Jewish people, a synagogue, a Church of Jesus Christ and as a Metropolitan Community Church. Local Rev. Candace Shultis serves as one of the commentators on how MCC used the space.

"Signage" paints a devastating portrait of the youth-worshipping world of gay men. After dying his facial hair, meticulously shaving and applying eye cream, Lex discusses facelifts and middle age prior to going out to a gay bar with a shirtless-men-drink-for-free-before-11 p.m. policy. (Sounds a lot like the Green Lantern, no?) An encounter with a young man there gives him pause.

"Angst Barbie" takes the viewers on a ride through poor Barbie's existential crisis as she tries to figure out why her arms don't move, her vagina is numb and everyone she's ever dated is named Ken. Sing it, sister.

"Girls Room," the only non-D.C. based gay film of the group follows a girl's traumatic journey to the school bathroom and what she finds there. If you guessed lesbian undertones, you just might be right.

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Excerpts from various blog postings

After Hours Blog

The Lookout: DC Shorts Film Festival

By Alejandro Salinas

With Jake Gyllenhaal and Cate Blanchett in attendance, Toronto's film festival might be buzzing with attention, but why turn to Canada when an exciting film festival kicks off this week in Washington?

Now in its fourth year, the DC Shorts Film Festival starts this Thursday with a series of films presented in high definition—a first for the festival—at Landmark E Street Cinema (555 11th St., NW).

With 89 films selected for showing from a pool of more than 434 submissions, what began as local filmmaker Jon Gann's response to the general neglect surrounding short films has become an important venue for filmmakers from across to world to show their work. This year, 18 of the shorts are by local filmmakers, including Barberin, directed by Ben Crosbie, which examines a day in the life of a city barbershop, and Vincent Gaines's Hearts of Glass, a documentary on the creative process behind local glass artist Tim Tate's work.

The festival is also sponsoring a screenwriting competition for the first time, with 85 screenplays submitted for competition. Seven will be selected for table readings by professional actors on Saturday, September 15 at 6 PM.

The competition runs through this weekend, with winners announced Sunday at 11 AM at the Gallery Place location of Clyde's restaurant (707 Seventh St., NW). Encore presentations of the winning films and the best of the festival will run through September 20.

Tickets (\$12) are available online at DCShorts.com. There will be a free screening of family-oriented films Saturday at 1 PM. For more information and a schedule, visit DCShorts.com.

Where & When Blog

What To Do This Weekend

By Catherine Andrews

Fall activities kick off in earnest this weekend. There are film festivals, art openings, free jazz on the Mall, and vintage shopping—with cocktails.

Friday, September 14: The 89 films in the DC Shorts Film Festival at the E Street Cinema offer glimpses into the lives of a hitchhiker, a poker player, a fortune-cookie writer, and dozens of others. The shorts—documentaries, comedies, dramas, experimental and animated films—come from 14 countries and range from 11/2 to 24 minutes. Bonus: Tonight is the opening cocktail party for the festival. If you have a valid ticket for a Friday screening, you can go to the courtyard of Poste Brasserie (555 8th Street, NW) for drinks, live music, and much film discussion. 6 PM. Tickets to the festival can be purchased here.

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POLITICO

Amuse-bouche politics

By Helena Andrews

Today marks the beginning of the fourth annual DC Shorts Film Festival, where no film runs over 20 minutes (OK, one does) and the politics come in little bites via Final Cut Pro.

Election year notwithstanding, only eight of the festival's 89 showings are decidedly political — although these days, the moving image and domestic affairs are constant bedfellows.

Maybe indie filmmakers are too tired to compete with Michael Moore. Or maybe, even in D.C., there are actually important issues outside of the Beltway — like coulrophobia.

The most current short is "Carla Cope," a five and a half minute take on the aftermath of Sept. 11 through the eyes of its main character "Carla."

Director Aileen McCormack has said in interviews that she was inspired by a firefighter she met while walking her dog. His name was Gerard Baptiste.

"He had a very special quality — and a kind of magic with the dog," said McCormack. "We lost Gerard Baptiste on Sept. 11. He was 35 years old and a member of Ladder 9 in the East Village."

"A Man in the Attic" follows an American Muslim who contemplates his cultural and religious identity as it fits in the Western Civilization cannon.

Earlier this week, Brit Maajid Nawaz denounced his top-level affiliation with the well-known radical Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir because it was "damaging to British society and the world at large."

"Esperando" (which means either "waiting" or "hoping" in Spanish) and "The Job" both cover the "hot button" issue of immigration. "Waiting/Hoping" is about a young woman, Ana, who finds herself pregnant after illegally crossing the U.S./ Mexican border.

It sounds like the "where are they now" version of "Maria Full of Grace" or the fictionalized tale of activist Elvira Arellano. "The Job" is supposedly an "offbeat" take on the life and times of a day laborer.

On the lighter, more ridiculous side is "S.V.A.N.," about a Ron and Rene Pelinger, two folks on the all-important mission to stop "vegetable abortion." The film follows the Pelingers as they open their Stop Vegetable Abortion Now offices in the "world's most powerful city."

The festival will be held at Landmark's E Street Cinema, located at 555 11th Street. A schedule of the festival's screening sessions and a description of the films are available at www.dcshorts.com.

September 13, 2007

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Film festival not short on inspiration

By Tae Jung Choi

In an industry dominated by big budget sequels and tabloid stars, the D.C. Shorts Film Festival gives aspiring independent filmmakers hope to find not only an audience but also a venue that encourages collaboration and communication. Unconcerned with press or big names, the festival focuses about the artistic quality of the films and helps deserving directors with grants for future work.

All festivals have a selection process by which films are accepted or cut, but the D.C. Shorts program takes care to make sure that each entry is treated with respect. Each short, whether accepted or not, is returned to the filmmaker with constructive criticism to help the filmmaker improve.

Jon Gann, the director of the festival and a short filmmaker himself, understands the financial rigors many filmmakers face and decided to do something about it. All airfare, metro fees, food and housing are taken care of, and filmmakers are housed with each other to encourage the collaborative spirit of the festival.

"At other festivals there was no structure to meet people," Gann said. "I was handed a martini, but nobody talked to me like a filmmaker. It was more about the party than anything. Here filmmakers can talk to other people and collaborate artistically."

Collaborative projects have already stemmed from this atmosphere, and two filmmakers actually married after meeting through the festival.

Eighty-nine films will be screened, each with a distinct style. Sean Murphy's *Untitled Film, No. 9* is an experimental film heavily influenced by music, with categories based on song titles from John Lennon's Plastic Ono Band. Murphy also collaborated with filmmaker David Butler, pumping out the film *Maestro Percival* in 48 hours. Kiyong Kim's *Martial Artsy* is a comedy based on martial arts and competition. Kim will also be reading his script *Camera Obscura*, giving him a chance to win a \$3500 grant to produce the film for next year's festival. Angela Snow's *Some Assembly Required*, a gothic fairy tale, details the grieving process for the death of a family member.

Each ticket will be valid for all the shorts viewed on that day, but for the full experience, a \$125 weekly pass is available. The pass allows audience members to join the VIP filmmaker party, an opportunity to engage with filmmakers, knock back a few drinks at the Friday cocktail party and enjoy all the "best-of" and "specialty" days.

There are no categories that separate each screening, but the opening day will contain films shot in high definition and there will be a special free family show on September 15th. After viewing the films, the audience will have an opportunity to mingle with directors and ask questions.

The D.C. Shorts Film Festival runs from September 13-20. All films will be screened at E Street Cinema located on E St. between 10th and 11th. Tickets can be purchased at the theater or online at dcshorts.com.

September 13, 2007

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Shorts Get Their 15 Minutes Festival Includes Showcase of Political Films

By Brandace Simmons

From gun control, immigration and political canvassing to the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the DC Shorts Film Festival will reel out an array of political and current-event-based short films starting today.

Independent short films from all over the world will gain their 15 minutes of fame at the festival, which runs through Sept. 20. The DC Shorts Film Festival is the metropolitan area's only film festival dedicated to showcasing and discussing films and screenplays that are 25 minutes or less.

"Washington is the third-largest film town in the country. Anything we can do to showcase not only films from around the world, but especially local films, is a great opportunity," said festival director Jon Gann. "There are few things in this city for local filmmakers to showcase their wares and this is an opportunity to do so."

The festival is open to all filmmakers, and there is a special focus on films created by metropolitan Washington, D.C.-based directors and writers. Films are selected from every genre for the festival's competition screenings.

This year, there are a handful of films focused on politics and current events that will be shown together on Monday night in a screening called "Politics as Usual."

"I think we definitely get a disproportionate share of political films because we are based in D.C., and because a lot of local filmmaking is in that genre. This year we have some really interesting films I think run a political gamut," Gann said.

Most of this year's political films deal with either war, personal experiences in Iraq or individual fears of war and terrorism. After each screening, filmmakers have the opportunity to speak to the audience as part of a moderated panel.

"Do You Have a Minute?" director Eric Gernand believes D.C. is the ideal location to feature his film, as he hopes his short will help individuals realize where they actually stand in politics.

"I am certainly excited that the film is playing here since it has a political slant to it," Gernand said. "My film deals with the relationship aspect of two different people who come from different political sides of the aisle. Everyone has to cross over the aisles at some point in their lives, whether it is

politics or religion, since we are such a divided country right now."

For many of the participating filmmakers, their ultimate goal is for the viewers to walk away with innovative thoughts and intriguing conversations.

"I hope people will leave the festival talking and with new conversation," said Jonathan Browning, writer and director of "The Job." "When people have a conversation, as a filmmaker our goal is not to convince people or make people think a certain way, but hopefully to influence communication among individuals from both sides of the fence."

The political films featured in this year's DC Shorts Film Festival seem to share a goal of creating empathy rather than making a political statement. Many filmmakers say they are just looking to create an opportunity to carry out an intelligent conversation.

"I don't have any illusion of grandeur, nor saying I am going to change the world, but I would like if two people could just talk and have a conversation after the film, whether it's a politician in Washington or somebody that's sitting in Idaho in their home. Then, I think I've done my job and that's most important," Browning said.

The films showcased in this year's festival are top-notch, Gann said, which should help get those conversations started.

"I think that this year's films in general are very strong, and we are really showing the cream of the crop. Many of the films we are showing have been picked up by other major film festivals, so I know we are picking up the right films to show. It gives Washington audiences a chance to see some of the best filmmaking out there," Gann added.

This festival will present 89 films and seven live script readings culled from 14 countries. All will be shown at the Landmark E Street Theatre in Penn Quarter.

September 13, 2007

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