

Press Release
August 2009



Canary Wharf Film Festival showcases the best in UK and International short film

CWFF announces its film line-up for 2009

CWFF 09 takes place from Sept 3rd - 7th



Canary Wharf Film Festival has announced its tantalising 2009 film line-up, and with four UK premieres, six world premieres and a whole host of international award winning shorts...

CWFF 09 promises to be the stand out festival of the year.

Canary Wharf Film Festival 2009 (CWFF 09) takes centre stage this September with a film offering unlike any other festival this year. The festival will host UK and international short film premieres along with programmes focussing on Serbian film and international award winning short films which rarely touch these shores.

CWFF's film strands consist of **Mix: UK, Mix: International, Showcase and Focus Serbia**, all of which will be showing the best that short film has to offer. *Mix: UK* will be providing a glimpse of the UK's rising stars of short films with world premieres from directors of the future Matthias Hoegg, James Rogan and Lisa Forrest.

Mix: International will provide festival goers with a glimpse of films from all corners of the globe from Luxembourg to the USA, Spain to Lebanon. Films featured will touch on issues as varied as the human body in *Divers*, to women defying gender roles in Islamic society in *Thorns and Silk*.

Over the years there have been many short films which have won awards and gained critical acclaim at festivals all over the world, however, while some go on to become international hits others seem to disappear without a trace. *Showcase* will look to right this wrong featuring last year's award winning short films from some of the world's leading film festivals including the **Sundance & Venice Film Festival** awarding winning *Lies* and the **Cannes** award winning *Megatron*.

Throughout troubled times in Serbia the film industry and cinema-going practically ceased due to state-controlled television but the last year has seen some of the country's best exports light up the international film scene. *Focus: Serbia Shorts*, will showcase highlights from this year's thriving Serbian short film scene featuring shorts *The Breaking Point*, *Helium* and *Rapresent*.

In further testament of the outstanding film material coming out of the Serbian film scene CWFF will screen its only feature length film as part of its tribute to Serbian film. *Turneja*, directed by one of Serbia's most successful directors Goran Markovic, follows a group of actors from Belgrade as they embark on a tour of the Serbian Krajina where they proceed to get caught up in the heart of a raging conflict.

Olivia Bellas, Festival Director for **CWFF 09** comments on this year's films:

"The shorts featuring at this year's festival are some of the best we've ever had. With such a diverse cross-section of international cinema I'm sure that there will be something for all film tastes. I'm particularly excited about the Serbian shorts and the range of top quality UK entries spanning all genres."

CWFF 09 runs from 3-7 September, 2009, with films being shown at Museum of London Docklands and Cineworld, West India Quay. The festival - which is being supported by the **Canary Wharf Group plc** and **Film London** - will show the best quality in short film; the most colourful animations, hilarious comedies, intriguing documentaries, and gripping dramas.

Mix: UK

Meet Me In The Middle, Dir. O W L S

Animation, 2009

Dur. 3min

Join the Barber Shop Man and his windmill powered petting zoo on his magical quest to woo the Nail Salon Lady. Music video for Sportsday Megaphone

Dance For Eternity, Dir. Michael Gilroy

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 12min

Two lovers make a promise to each other that will change their lives forever.

Pockets, Dir. James Lees

Documentary, 2009

Dur. 3min

What's in your pockets? Londoners share what they're carrying in their pockets and what it means to them, with every object telling a revealing story.

August, Dir. Matthias Hoegg

WORLD PREMIERE

Animation, 2009

Dur. 5min

The quiet and order of a summer campsite is disturbed by unwanted guests. While mayhem breaks out a group of ants makes brave new discoveries in the grass.

Noesis, Dir. Sophie Klevenow

Animation, 2009

Dur. 4min

A captivating and all-too-familiar allegory about growing up, and the changes and losses on the way.

Dear Matthew, Dir. Keith O'Shea

Documentary, 2008

Dur. 15min

In January 1999 Matthew O'Reilly left his parents' home in Barnstaple, Devon; he has not been seen since. All that remains of him are his paintings that his father Tim curates.

Resident & Occupant, Dir. Spencer Cross

Animation, 2008

Dur. 7min

A man discovers a cheeky interloper at the foot of his bed and follows him through a fantastical world inspired by the designs of Voonwong & Bensonsaw.

Janusz, Dir. James Rogan

WORLD PREMIERE

Fiction, 2009

Dur. 13min

Janus commutes in and out of London every day, watching through the window as the world rushes by. Lydia is moving home after quitting her job. When these two meet on the train, they each get a glimpse of the other's world.

Breaking the Mould, Dir. Rebecca and Luca

Animation, 2008

Dur. 1min

A colourful journey through life with an adventurous apple.

Hairytale, Dir. Lisa Forrest

WORLD PREMIERE

Documentary, 2009

Dur. 7min

Hairdresser-turned-inventor Ronn is saving the world – one hair at a time. Doing away with dangerous fibreglass, he creates revolutionary new products using discarded human hair.

Baghdad Express, Dir. Nimer Rashed

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 11min

A young girl working in her father's Arabic restaurant is forced to decide which comes first – her dreams or her family.

My Peculiar Episodes, Dir. Guy Wigmore

WORLD PREMIERE

Experimental, 2009

Dur. 2min

Ribbons of colour, music and movement. Blown and entangled, chopped into a brief, beautiful film.

Last Train, Dir. David Schofield

WORLD PREMIERE

Fiction, 2009

Dur. 10min

The silent night is broken as Jay awaits the last train alongside some raucous teenagers. As paranoia slowly takes hold, are they really a threat or is his fear justified?

A Film About Poo, Dir. Emily Howells & Anne Wilkins

Animation, 2009

Dur. 1min 30secs

This is a film about poo, about things that you should and shouldn't do...

Mix: International

Divers (USA), Dir. Paris Mavroidis**UK PREMIERE**

Animation, 2008

Dur. 3min

A 3D animation exploring the abstraction of the human body into shape and the absorption of the individual into the mass.

La Tangente / The Tangent (France), Dir. Vincent Vesco

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 12min

A man offers an attractive woman a ride wherever she wants to go. The two set off on a journey of life with no plans and no direction, but how long can they live their capricious life?

Biet Ly / Days on the Shore (Denmark), Dir. Alfred Nguyen**UK PREMIERE**

Animation, 2008

Dur. 8min

A group of Vietnamese refugees flee from oppression following the Vietnam War. When they are caught an intense battle of wills ensues between one man and his captors.

2 Men, 1 War, 33 Years On (Lebanon), Dir. Eric Trometer**UK PREMIERE**

Documentary, 2008

Dur. 5min

Having fought on opposing sides during the brutal Lebanese civil war, two men reconcile openly with their violent history to find forgiveness.

Immerse (Romania), Dir. Anton Groves

Animation, 2008

Dur. 2min

A story exploring the immersive world of inner space.

Nena! / Baby! (Spain), Dir. Lluís Segura

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 15min

A girl and a boy's game of house soon becomes an altogether more adult affair.

Reaccion / Reaction (Spain), Dir. David Victori Blaya

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 12min

How do you know when it's time to help somebody? Sometimes doing the right thing can have grave consequences.

Morgenrot (Luxembourg), Dir. Jeff Desom

Experimental, 2009

Dur. 4min

Chaos and grace combine as a burning piano falls from a building in 1920s New York. Music video for the song "Morgenrot" by Hauschka.

Impasse (Netherlands), Dir. Bram Schouw**UK PREMIERE**

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 5min

Spoken without words, we're left to consider whether love and attraction can break through the impasse of human nature.

Mountain-Water-Painting (Germany), Dir. Christin Bolewski

Experimental, 2009

Dur. 6min

Proceeding from Chinese thought and aesthetics, the traditional concept of 'Shan-Shui-Hua' (mountain-water-painting) is recreated as modern video art.

Thorns and Silk (Palestine/Israel/UK), Dir. Paulina Tervo

Documentary, 2009

Dur. 13min

Four unusual stories from the West Bank, featuring women defying gender roles in Islamic society, by working in jobs conventionally associated with men.

Showcase

Lies (Sweden), Dir. Jonas Odell and Johanna Andersson**WINNER AT SUNDANCE & VENICE**

Animation, 2008

Dur. 13min

True stories about lies. An animated film based on documentary interviews. Truth turns out to be more intriguing than fiction, even when the subject is lies.

L'Arbitro (Italy), Dir. Paolo Zucca**WINNER AT CLERMONT-FERRAND**

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 15min

In the hellish mayhem of a bottom division football match, the destinies of two thieves cross paths.

Megatron (Romania), Dir. Marian Crisan**WINNER AT CANNES**

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 14min

It's Maxim's 8th birthday. His mother takes him on a trip to a McDonald's restaurant in the city, but his youthful demands threaten to ruin the day for both of them.

Please Say Something (Germany/Ireland), Dir. David O'Reilly**WINNER AT BERLINALE**

Animation, 2009

Dur. 10min

A heart-wrenching depiction of a troubled relationship between a Cat and Mouse set in the distant future.

Vacsora (Hungary), Dir. Karchi Perlmann**WINNER AT VENICE AND PALM SPRINGS**

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 26min

When Gaspar slips and falls in the pigpen during the morning feeding, this quiet Hungarian farm transforms into a stage of Le Théâtre de l'Absurde.

Next Floor (Canada), Dir. Denis Villeneuve**WINNER AT TORONTO**

Fiction, 2008

Dur. 12min

At a luxurious banquet, the pampered guests participate in an apparently ritualistic gastronomic carnage. In this absurd and grotesque universe, an unexpected sequence of events undermines the endless symphony of abundance.

Focus: Serbia Shorts

Rapresent, Dir. Ivana Todorovic

Documentary, 2008

Dur. 30min

There are some 250 young homeless people living on Belgrade's streets. One of them is Bojan, 19-year-old hip-hopper and graffiti artist who lost his father in war in Croatia. Ivana Todorovic's recent work following her first success, 'Everyday Life of Roma Children from Blok 71'.

The Br(e)aking Point, Dir. Igor M. Toholj

Documentary, 2008

Dur. 28min

Milenko Dzever, engine driver from Zednik near Subotica, killed 23 people while driving his train. Train drivers can see disaster coming but can do nothing to prevent it, becoming killers against their will. The Br(e)aking Point was Golden Plaque winner at the 2009 Belgrade Documentary and Short Film Festival.

Perje U Plamenu/Feathers in Flames, Dir. Igor Coric

Animation, 2008

Dur. 4min

A silent film about things that make you want to scream.

Helium, Dir. Giuseppe Schettino

Experimental, 2008

Dur. 9min

Young people and war. Young people and love. Young people who cannot escape. Even if they had a chance they wouldn't know where to go. Youthful anxiety artistically depicted as a process of awakening in Serbia's ten-year madness.

Turneja / The Tour

Caught red-handed. Yes, you've spotted it, CWFF have sneaked a feature into the programme. Though the short-form is what CWFF worship, this full-length film gives a real insight into current Serbian drama and is just too good to keep under wraps.

Director: Goran Markovic

Duration: 102min

In 1993, at the height of the war, a group of actors from Belgrade embark on a tour of the Serbian Krajina. They are seemingly oblivious to their surroundings until they are thrust into the heart of the conflict, wandering from war front to war front, from one army to the next. A wicked satire, directed by one of Serbia's most successful directors, Goran Markovic.

Editor's Notes

The **Canary Wharf Film Festival** (CWFF) was established in 2007 to break down the barriers between creativity and commerce by showcasing the best of UK and international filmmaking talent in one of the UK's most iconic and well known locations.

The festival also aims to alter preconceived notions of Canary Wharf and highlighting it as London's newest creative hub; highlighting it as a filming location and tourist destination, while fostering a creative local and sustainable community.

CWFF is a not-for-profit organisation. The festival entry fee is to cover essential maintenance costs, with all fees going back into making CWFF the best it can possibly be.

Contacts

For further information / Images / Interviews / Check disks

Idea Generation: +44(0)20 7749 6850

Daniel Lipman: daniel.lipman@ideageneration.co.uk

Paul Drury : pauld@ideageneration.co.uk

Ends

Websites



www.ideageneration.co.uk

For:

- Online Press Office
- Client list
- Company contact detail



<http://www.cwff.org.uk/09/index.php>

For:

- Details on the festival
- How to submit a film