

MEDIA RELEASE

November 21, 2007

whistler⁰⁷
film festival
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Sunday Is Kidz Fest Day At Whistler Film Festival

Films & Fun For The Entire Family ... Including A Free Outdoor Screening With Hot Chocolate!

Whistler, BC (November 21, 2007): Sunday, December 02 is family day at this year's Whistler Film Festival, with Kidz Fest featuring a series of seven short films for all ages, followed by a screening of *Luna: Spirit Of The Whale* and topped off with hot chocolate and free outdoor screenings in Skier's Plaza. Kidz Fest and the Outdoor Screening are presented by SHAW Cable.

Kidz Fest gets under way with Kidz Shorts at 1 pm in the Village 8 Cinemas - Theatre 7 . Seven short films about kids and topics kids can relate to include: Nir Paniry's *Tina Bobina*, about a quirky teenager looking for her "raison d'être"; the familiar nightmare where you show up at school naked is revisited in John Mavety's *The Von*; an introverted seven-year-old boy finds a clever way to talk to his ailing grandmother in Jeff Prugh's *Thomas In Bloom*; Tricia Lee's *Paper Tulips* is the story of a mean joke classmates play on a love-struck young girl; the misadventures of a remarkably peculiar man are told in Danielle Shamash's *The Sunday Man*; Julia Kwan's *Smile* explores the small, subtle fractures in a Chinese immigrant family when they sit for a family portrait; and Claudia Morgando Escanilla's *No Bikini* takes a woman back to that glorious summer when she was seven years old, and shows how it defined her spirit for the rest of her life. Admission to Kids Shorts is \$6 for children and \$12 for adults.

Following Kidz Shorts at 3:30 pm in the same venue, the feature length film *Luna: The Spirit of the Whale*, tells the dramatic story of a young stray orca whale that took up residency near a small town on the British Columbia coast. The orca transforms the lives of Chief Mike Maquinna (Adam Beach) and an aboriginal boy struggling with his identity (Aaron Miko) and becomes the centre of a spiritual and political controversy when a government official (Jason Priestly) decides to transport him over land to reunite the whale with his pod.

Luna will be preceded by the short film *Snowing, Going, Gone!* which was created as part of the Get Reel Youth Program presented by the Whistler Film Festival and sponsored by Dave Murray Summer Ski & Snowboard Camp. Twelve local youths made this film on the topic of "Saving our Snow" with a focus on helping save the Blackcomb glacier. In the film, a melting snowman interviews environmentalists and others who are being directly affected by the fact that our snow is melting! Admission to *Snowing, Going, Gone!* and *Luna* is also \$6 for children and \$12 for adults.

Following *Luna*, everyone is invited to Skier's Plaza where the Whistler Film Festival brings the cinema to the great outdoors! A giant outdoor screen will illuminate a selection of short films that the whole family can enjoy, kicking off with a repeat of *Snowing, Going, Gone!* and featuring four other short films as well as a repeat performance of the four 2007 'Whistler Stories' films.

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Dominique Keller's *Aboriginality* is a hybrid live-action and animated dance piece about adaptation; Troy Nixey's *Latchkey's Lament* employs a blend of CGI animation and live action to tell a magical tale of love and heroism; Neil McInnes' *Automoto* is a tour de force, stop-motion animation re-imagining the filmmaking process; and Mark Montefiore's *Back In '93* is a ten-year-old boy's coming of age tale as a closet Montreal Canadian's fan living in Leafs-loving southern Ontario during the 1993 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The evening will close with a screening of this year's four Whistler Stories films: *Binty*, *First To Go Up*; *Journey To The Rainbow* and *Extreme Seniors*. Please see film ratings below.

Hot chocolate courtesy of Starbucks will be available as you gather under the stars to enjoy the show! Dress for the weather!

The Festival: The 2007 Whistler Film Festival showcases 92 films, including premieres from some of North America's top directors, and awards over \$42,000 in prizes and commissions. This premier event also features innovative industry programming and networking opportunities through the Whistler Filmmaker Forum, as well as cool parties and special events.

The Whistler Film Festival's online box office is now open for Festival and Filmmaker Forum passes. Individual film and special event tickets are also available online (until December 2). The Festival Box Office now open for walk-in and phone sales from 11am to 6pm daily and is located at The New Blackcomb Lodge (4220 Gate Way Drive, Whistler). For information or to purchase passes and tickets, call the Bell Info Line at 1-877-913-FILM (3456), 604-932-SHOW (7469) or visit www.whistlerfilmfestival.com.

The 7th annual Whistler Film Festival, presented by American Express, runs from November 29 to December 2, 2007 and the Whistler Filmmaker Forum, including DOC Talk, runs from November 28 to December 1, 2007. For information, please visit www.whistlerfilmfestival.com.

The Whistler Film Festival is sponsored by Bell Canada, Global Currents, Directors Guild of Canada – BCDC, Movie Gallery, Dose.ca, National Post, The Vancouver Sun and Whistler Blackcomb, and is supported by Telefilm Canada, BC Film and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

*The **Whistler Film Festival Society** (WFFS) is a charitable, not for profit cultural and educational organization committed to promoting, developing and celebrating a strong film industry in Western Canada, and to showcasing the best films from Canada and around the world. WFFS offers two main programs for the international community to discover Canadian filmmakers and do business with the Canadian film industry: the Whistler Film Festival (November 29 to December 2, 2007), and the Whistler Filmmaker Forum, western Canada's premier industry event (November 28 to December 1, 2007). For more information, please visit: www.whistlerfilmfestival.com.*

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KIDZ FEST FILM RATINGS

ABORIGINALITY

RATING: General: No Advisory

AUTOMOTO

RATING: General: No Advisory

BACK IN '93

RATING: General: No Advisory

BINTY

RATING: General: No Advisory

EXTREME SENIORS

RATING: Parental Guidance: Sexually Suggestive Scenes

FIRST TO GO UP

RATING: General: Nudity

JOURNEY TO THE RAINBOW

RATING: General: No Advisory

LATCHKEY'S LAMENT

RATING: Parental Guidance: May Frighten Young Children

LUNA: SPIRIT OF THE WHALE

RATING: General: No Advisory

NO BIKINI

RATING: General: No Advisory

PAPER TULIPS

RATING: General: No Advisory

SMILE

RATING: General: No Advisory

SNOWING, GOING, GONE!

RATING: General: No Advisory

THE SUNDAY MAN

RATING: Parental Guidance: Sexual Content

THOMAS IN BLOOM

RATING: General: No Advisory

TINA BOBINA

RATING: Parental Guidance: No Advisory

THE VON

RATING: Parental Guidance: Coarse Language
