

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

12:00 Noon Audience Choice Comedy Entries

1. *Super-Anon* - Stephen H. Plitt
2. *The Punching Dummy* - Peter Bean
3. *I Just Want to Eat My Sandwich* - Julia Radochia – **Winner of Audience Favorite Comedy**
4. *Audition* - Sam Holdren
5. *Zombie Movie* - Brandon Clayton

1:45 p.m. Documentaries & Experimental Film

- Whistle While You Work* - Ryan Claypool/Austin Smythe - **Best Documentary Award**
- Behind Forgotten Eyes* – Alan Gilmore/Alex Ferrari - **Featured Documentary**
- Startle Pattern* - Eric Patrick - **Experimental Animation**

4:00 p.m. Audience Choice Drama Entries

1. *Pardon Me* - Daric Gates
2. *Letting Go* - Dan Masucci – **Winner of Audience Favorite Drama**
3. *Pieces of the Sun* - Lee Buchenau
4. *Adia* - Francis Polo
5. *Draggage* - John Mossman
6. *Rutherford County* - Lis Anna

Special Sneak Preview

The Perfect Mark - Linda McElroy

6:00 p.m. Dinner Break

8:00 p.m. Best Feature and Best Horror

- A Garota (The Kid)* - Fernando Pinheiro - **Animation**
- Barrymore's Dream* - Robert Alaniz - **Best Feature (Thriller) Award**
- Malasuenos* - Adrian Harlan/Mark Nova/Ben Popp - **Best Horror Film Award**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

12:00 Noon Diversity Films

- A Cry from Iran* - Joseph & Andre Hovsepian – **Featured Documentary**
- Susan Hero* - Jason Rosette – **Featured Drama**

2:30 p.m. Comedy Films

Heavy - Shannon Matheis - **Featured Short Comedy**

Budd - Russ & Tracy Cring - **Featured Comedy**

4:30 p.m. Award Winners

The Last Stain - Jamal Easley - **Best Student Film Award**

P.U.R.E. - Dusty Mancinelli - **Best Science Fiction Award**

Twilight of Youth - Jerald Fine - **Best Drama Award**

Six Degrees of Stardom (or How Ronald Reagan Remembers the Life of Brandon Clayton) - Brandon Clayton
Best Comedy Award

Son of Roni - Greg Brookens - **Best Sequel Award**

The Eyes Have It - Steven Addair - **Best Film Noir Award**

Jell-Ohh Lady - John Mossman - **Best of Fest Award**

FILMMAKER BIOS

Steven Addair – *The Eyes Have It*

Steven Addair has an MFA in Film/TV from Governor's State University in Illinois and a BA from Old Dominion University in Virginia. He is an award-winning filmmaker with a reputation for taking on several roles during production. During his 10 years in the film business, he has served clients from Samsung to Cirque du Soleil. His credits include commercials, music videos, public service announcements and short films. While pursuing his MFA, Steven wrote and directed several student films and worked at Chicago TV stations. His thesis film *Ivory* debuted at the New York's 1998 IFP Market. In New York, he formed Addair Productions, which has worked with Manhattan-based companies and Fortune 500 companies. His last short film *Necrolog* won the Big Mini DV Festival and was an award winner at the 2005 Boston Motion Picture Awards. In 2005 he formed ShoulderHill Entertainment with his wife Danielle, an executive producer at a video production company, and partner Jim Hall.

Robert E. Alaniz – *Barrymore's Dream*

Robert E. Alaniz was born in Blue Island, IL and began drawing pictures and cartoon characters at the age of 6. By the time he entered high school, he had won several awards for his artwork and aspired to be a commercial artist, but performing in a school play changed his focus to drama. He organized his own drama group The Calumet Park Players which performed close to 20 productions of his plays. When he attended Moraine Valley Community College, a class in Film Appreciation inspired him to turn from theater to film. By 1982, he had completed his ninth film *Barrymore's Dream*, but life got in the way of filmmaking. In 2003, he got a second chance at filmmaking filming *Timeserver* and then decided to go back to the story he had written in high school. The 1982 version had a low-budget feel with little character development. So 23 years later he began production again on *Barrymore's Dream* with an updated, more character-driven storyline and most important—a bigger budget. This version, more psychological thriller than horror film, is his eleventh film.

Lis Anna – *Rutherford County*

Lis Anna has written, directed and produced several films and has been the recipient of many awards including a four-time WorldFest International Screenplay winner, Fade-in Finalist, Telluride IndieFest Best Short Film, New Century Writers winner and a finalist in the prestigious William Faulkner Fiction Competition. Her films

have screened in numerous festivals including the Short Film Market – Cannes, Atlanta Underground, Action On Film, Tupelo Film Fest, and Blue Ridge Southwest. Lis lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Peter Bean – *The Punching Dummy*

Peter Bean hails from the Midwestern state of Minnesota and learned the art of filmmaking in the Latin city of Miami, FL at Miami International University. After his studies he hit the ground running with his first independent short film titled *My Struggle* which received festival praise along with a Best Short award. From there he moved to Los Angeles and joined the many small fish in the big pond. There he hopes to create new opportunities to continue storytelling. *The Punching Dummy* is based on a short story he had written and put aside until now. He is currently developing this into a feature script as well as continuing the development of his Civil War story which is in its fourth draft, but has already been a semi-finalist and finalist in several script competitions. Peter hopes that very soon he'll help to change the face of filmmaking with his stories and help the beleaguered film industry out of its sequel and remake stint.

Greg Brookens – *Son of Roni*

Greg Brookens lives in Chicago, but grew up in Springfield. Along with his brother Matt, he has written and directed such movies as *Skunk Ape!?*, *Of Bass and Men*, and *Roni vs. Lincoln*. He can next be seen acting in his brother's feature film *The Art of Pain*. Greg also plays accordion in the band *Dr. Killbot*. He enjoys videogames, croquet, and writing bios about himself. Greg says, "If I were a beautiful woman, I'd definitely want to date Greg Brookens."

Lee Buchenau – *Pieces of the Sun*

Born in Grinnell, Iowa, Lee Allen Buchenau started filmmaking while in middle school. As a high school student Lee won numerous Iowa student awards for his video projects. Lee now lives in St. Louis where he is completing his degree in film production with a minor in photography at Webster University. Lee's college films have won awards from Webster and his work has shown at the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival. Lee plans to attend graduate school to continue to study and create cinematic art.

Ryan Claypool/Austin Smythe – *Whistle While You Work*

Ryan Claypool, a native of Marshall, Illinois, recently graduated with a degree in film and a minor in philosophy from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He combined an interest in documentary films and the history behind them with an interest in labor activism and labor history to make this film. Ryan founded *Cinema Under the Ground*, a cine-collective in Southern Illinois centered around local film screenings and community-based filmmaking. *Whistle While You Work* won First Place Documentary in the Little Muddy Film Festival at SIU.

Austin Smythe is an independent filmmaker whose first film of any substance is *Whistle While You Work*. He is from the town of Channahon, IL, near Joliet, the home of Stateville Prison. The eldest of two sons, he comes from a family with a strong working-class background which has heavily influenced his current work. At present, he is residing in Normal attending Heartland Community College in order to finish his BA in Cinema from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Although he does not have any current projects set in stone, there are a couple of ideas for documentaries that he is attempting to flesh out as well as some possible narrative ideas.

Brandon Clayton – *Six Degrees of Stardom* and *Zombie Movie*

Born in Central Illinois, Brandon decided to venture into the world of filmmaking when he was 16. In 2006, he graduated Magna cum Laude from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale with a degree in Cinema and Photography. At SIUC, he produced over 11 films and received the Robert Dennis Film-making Award for outstanding cinematography. *For Glory and Gashes* won the 2006 Best Documentary award at the Little Muddy Film Festival at SIU and Audience Favorite Documentary at the 2006 Route 66 Film Festival. His production company Hazard Films along with 747 Productions completed *Zombie Movie* in 2007. He is looking forward to moving to Los Angeles and to making a sequel to *Six Degrees*, his award-winning thesis film.

Russ & Tracy Cring – *Budd*

Russ and Tracy Cring are a rare commodity in the entertainment industry—a husband and wife team working productively together, minus tiffs and trysts. With seven feature-length films already to their credit and, of course, an annoying number of shorts and near-misses, including the distribution of their first feature-length film *Lenders Morgan* already spurring notice among the critics and festivals, the twosome have moved from the gruesome world of B horror movies into mainstream movie-making, sensitive to plot and story-line, dashed with pathos and sprinkled with mirth. It is a new canvas for entertainment, painted with a delicious blending of stage, theater, historical movie twists and turns and just a bit of stand-up comedy.

Russ has been in the entertainment field since his childhood, traveling with his family in a musical band, playing bass guitar for numerous combos, and acting in many of his own early productions before donning the director's beret. Tracy brings the roots of East Tennessee mingled with a cosmopolitan sensibility to anchor the team with a technical tenderness that is both proficient and innovative.

Founding F-3 Films nearly four years ago, the creative couple has linked with author and screenwriter, Jonathan Richard Cring (or, as they know him—"Dad") to produce a new style of work that is already bringing acclaim at many film festivals. Married since 2002, the couple resides in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Jamal Easley – *The Last Stain*

Jamal Easley is a senior at Chicago Vocational Career Academy in Chicago where he majors in Radio/TV. In addition to directing *The Last Stain* as part of Public Schools/IFP-Chicago collaboration, he has shot, edited and produced numerous videos, and recently edited this year's CVCA/IFP production, the musical comedy "Wake Me Up Later." He is active with his church and serves on the Community Outreach Team.

Jerald Fine - *Twilight of Youth*

Although Jerald Fine has been a stockbroker for 30 years, he has always enjoyed creative writing, getting his first inspiration from a dynamic sixth grade teacher. Jerald has a Masters Degree in drama from the Univ. of Miami where he concentrated on playwriting. Two of his plays were produced locally in South Florida. More recently, he published a book of short stories and in addition, produced an audio book of those same short stories. Two of the short stories became inspirations for his two short films, both projects written in the tradition of the "Twilight Zone." Both have won numerous awards around the country. *Twilight of Youth* is his second film.

Daric Gates – *Pardon Me*

Daric Gates, a native of the Springfield area, has been living in Los Angeles with his wife Holly for four years. He has worked as a key set production assistant on the TV shows "Las Vegas" and "Crossing Jordan" and the films *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, *Friday Night Lights* and *Seabiscuit*. The past two years he has been working as an editor at Edge Creative cutting movie trailers and television promos for "Veronica Mars", "Lost", "Alias", "Heroes", etc. He has recently incorporated his own production company, DRG Entertainment, to edit trailers and acting reels for Molly Sims ("Las Vegas") and Josh Duhamel (*Transformers*, "Las Vegas"). This summer he directed a documentary on Balboa Island in Newport Beach, and was also finishing an independent feature film with his writing/producing partner Cavan Hallman, that they hope gets into Sundance Film Festival this winter.

Anthony Gilmore/Alex Ferrari – *Behind Forgotten Eyes*

Director/Producer Anthony Gilmore has a B.A. in Communications/Theatre from Union College and an M.A. in Korean Studies from Korea University. Anthony worked as assistant to the director on Broadway's "The Boy From Oz" with Hugh Jackman, which received honorable mention in ACTF. His stage directing credits include "All I Really Need to Know I learned In Kindergarten," "Oliver," "The Miracle Worker," and "The Diviners."

Producer Alex Ferrari was raised in New York and is now stationed in South Florida, Alex has become not only one of region's most sought-after producers and editors, but also one of its premiere commercial directors. Alex

has edited two feature films including *Push* starring Chazz Palmentari, as well as editing, post supervising, and directing over 300 commercials.

Adrian Harlan/Mark Nava/Ben Popp - *Malasuenos*

Adrian Harlan was born in 1964 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended the University of New Mexico graduating with a BA in history and a minor in Russian studies in 1993. He returned to UNM in 1999 and graduated with a second BA in Media Arts in 2004. Adrian is currently an instructional assistant in the Department of Cinematic Arts at UNM and continues to make short, partially narrative, partially experimental films. He currently lives in Albuquerque, NM. He can be contacted at adrianharlan@yahoo.com or www.myspace/krusadian.

Mark Nava is a New Mexican born in the late 20th century. In the early 21st century, faced with the dilemma of pursuing either drawing or music, Mark chose instead to move into the world of film, thereby encompassing a variety of disciplines in the creative arts. Armed with a notebook full of songs, stories, drawings, magic card strategies, philoso-phies, films, videos and recipes in progress, he is always working on something. Some previous films can be viewed Internet sites, on commonly under the name "wolfmansupreme". Mark received his BA in Media Arts from the University of New Mexico in 2003 and currently resides in Albuquerque, NM. Mark can be contacted at wolfmansupreme@yahoo.com.

Ben Popp was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1979 and graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BA in Media Arts in 2004. He received his MFA in Film from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007 and recently concluded a tour of the Midwest with his most recent film *Sailors on Belmont*. Ben currently resides in Portland, Oregon and can be contacted at susejhead@yahoo.com.

Sam Holdren - *Audition*

Sam Holdren, originally from Charleston, West Virginia, is a writer, director, and producer who holds a B.S. in Communications and a B.A. in English: Professional Writing (both from WV State University), and is currently finishing his M.F.A. in Film & Media Arts at Temple University. Holdren has screened in multiple film festivals, and with his background in theatre and film, has worked with such artists as actor/playwright David Selby, award-winning stage directors Doug Wager, and award-winning filmmakers Daniel Boyd, Kim Purlock, and Shelley Barry. For more information, please visit www.samholdren.com.

Joseph Hovespian - *A Cry from Iran*

Joseph Hovespian had the idea to make this documentary in 1995, a year after his father's martyrdom, but he wasn't sure if he was emotionally ready. Nevertheless, he filmed any-thing that one day could become useful. In 1999, with more confidence in his filming skills and a great passion for the project, he began filming interviews and collecting archive footage in Iran. Interestingly, the majority of the archive footage had been shot by himself when he was 17, not predicting that one day they could become so important. The production of this documentary was stretched due to lack of budget and to his family's immigration to the U.S. In 2004, his younger brother Andre came on board to help make short promos to raise some funds. Soon after in 2005, Open Doors International decided to sponsor the project. The story in draft form was sent to Tom Hoksly (U.K.) who wrote the final script. Over 40 interviews and many re-enactment scenes were shot in Turkey, England and across the U.S. Some contract-based filming was also done in Iran and Armenia.

Dusty Mancinelli – *P.U.R.E.*

Dusty Mancinelli is an up and coming writer and director from Toronto and is currently involved in the creation and production of a diverse collection of film projects. Dusty recently graduated from York University with an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Film Production, graduating with distinction. While studying at York, Dusty has gained extensive experience in producing, writing and directing, working closely with professors John Greyson and Amnon Buchbinder. Currently, Dusty continues to develop and apply his skills while working as an assistant to internationally acclaimed and Academy Award-nominated Director Deepa Mehta and Producer David Hamilton. Next, Dusty just finished writing a feature-length film that he plans to direct.

Dan Masucci – *Letting Go*

Dan Masucci is a stay-at-home father living in upstate New York. Called an "indie iron man" by Film Threat, he has directed several award-winning shorts including the Internet cult favorite *Graceland*. Dan made it into the top one percent of more than 12,000 filmmaking applicants from across the globe for the Fox Television series "On the Lot." For his short film *Letting Go*, the Idaho Film & Television Institute awarded Dan the IFTI Visionary Award to recognize and encourage the vision of a director they feel will have a long and prosperous career in filmmaking.

Shannon Mathesis - *Heavy*

Shannon N. Matheis has been in love with movies since her aunt scared her to death with "Trilogy of Terror" at a young age. Working at Family Video for 12 years has only encouraged her try her hand at filmmaking. Her employees are forced to help her out and so began Horrible Productions. Shannon has recently launched her own film festival for local filmmakers. She lives and works in Springfield, Illinois.

John Mossman – *Draggage* and *Jell-Ohh Lady*

John Mossman has written, produced and directed several award-winning short films and videos. He is the recipient of the "Best Director" Award from the Midwest Independent Film Fest for his work on the short film *Jell-Ohh Lady*, which also screened at LA's Egyptian Theater as part of the American Cinematheque Series, and the Palm Springs International Short Film Festival where it won Audience Favorite. His short film *Draggage* also received numerous awards and was coined the "best no budget film of the year" at the Palm Springs Film Fest. His short film *Spaceman Dan's 243rd Flight* recently appeared on "Watch My Shorts" TV show. He is the recipient of two Telly Awards and a 2005 Voice Award. As coordinator of the IFP-Chicago mentorship program, he has produced several shorts, including *The Last Stain*, which recently won a national Emmy in the High School Television category. He is co-founder of The Artistic Home, a theater and training program for actors and directors in Chicago, has degrees in Film and Theater from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and teaches in the film department at Columbia College.

Eric Patrick – *Startle Pattern*

Originally from Southeast Texas, Eric Patrick combines animation, live action, photographic effects, sound collage and performance to create experimental narratives. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and has won numerous awards both domestically and internationally, including awards at The Black Maria Film Festival, The Humboldt International Film Festival, Semana de Cine Experimental de Madrid, South by Southwest Film Festival, The Ann Arbor Film Festival, and Festival de Cinema Independent de Barcelona. His films have screened extensively at festivals, museums, and on television throughout Europe, Australia, Asia and the Americas.

In addition to his film work, Eric has also worked extensively in commercial animation in both New York and Los Angeles. His animation for the Nickelodeon program "Blues Clues" has been nominated for multiple Emmys and received a Peabody award. He has additionally written articles on animated documentaries and ritual in animation. He is currently on leave from his position as an Assistant Professor in the Radio/TV/Film program at Northwestern University to work on a film titled *Retrocognition*.

Fernando Pinheiro – *A Garota (The Kid)*

Fernando Pinheiro was born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He studied fine arts at the Escola Guignard in Universidade do Estado de Minas Gerais and graduated with a degree in fine arts and cinema technique. He is an animation 2D and 3D researcher, along with directing animation and experimental short films. He is credited in his first film *A Garota (The Kid)* 2006 as Art Director with his name "Fernand Pinheiro" (without "o") and Director as "Fernando Pithier." Fernando is currently working on *Bons Sonhos*, a short animation experimental musical fantasy and plans two more short animation films for 2008: *Love amor ame* and *Ser – humano (human-Being)*. For more information, see www.fernandopinheiro.com.

Stephen H. Plitt – *Super-Anon*

Stephen H. Plitt is a graduate of the Vancouver Film School and an award-winning filmmaker. *Testimony: The Fanny Crosby Story*, a docudrama he directed, aired on North American TV winning NRB Nova and People's

Choice Awards, as well as two Crown Awards. His short film *Super-Anon* has screened at more than 50 film festivals winning numerous awards including the Best Film Award and Special Achievement Award for Ensemble Acting at the 2004 ReelFast 48hr Film Festival and Best Comedy and Audience Choice Awards at several festivals. *The Life Cycle of a Coat Hanger*, a short film Stephen wrote, directed and edited, debuted on the Comedy Network. Steve also directed and edited Bocephus King's music video "Jesus the Bookie." Currently, Steve is in development on two of his own feature film projects: *Draconis Civic* and *HD 13*.

Francis Polo - *Adia*

Francis Polo was raised in Lagos, Nigeria. Although he was born in Long Beach, California, it wasn't until age 14 that he moved to the United States. Through his childhood habit of watching videos with his aunt, going through literally thousands of films over the years, a regular pastime became his life's passion. After being convinced by his mom to try acting; at age 17, Polo got his first experience on a film set. He appeared as an actor in a Pepsi commercial and soon found himself in a variety of television commercials and independent films. Almost immediately after that chance to observe directors on the set, he went on to direct theatre at the Bruce Hayden Center in Malcolm X College (Theatre X). Polo refined his skills at Columbia College in Chicago, IL, from which he received a B.A. in Film & Video with honors.

Julia Radochia – *I Just Want to Eat My Sandwich*

Julia Radochia is a native in Arlington, MA and spent many years acting in Boston, New York and Los Angeles before she decided to enter film school at Los Angeles City College in 2001. She planned to learn more about writing and editing but surprisingly found herself wanting to direct as well. In Los Angeles she wrote, directed, produced and edited several short films that made the festival rounds. Her first festival acceptance for any film was the 2004 Route 66 Film Festival in which she won the audience award for *Sally's Dream House*. *I Just Want to Eat My Sandwich* is Julia's first film after moving back to the Boston area a year ago. She is pleased to have it screen in this year's festival, making this her fourth year in a row at Route 66. Julia also wants to credit her boyfriend, Jeremy Ward, who is her right-hand man in making all her films. He has done everything from producing to doing sound, music, cinematography, gaffing and assistant directing, and is a main factor in getting these films done.

Jason Rosette - *Susan Hero*

Filmmaker Jason (aka "J") Rosette has been making films since age 12, when he first discovered the classic combination of Super 8 film, gasoline, and firecrackers. Later, he attended NYU film school, where he graduated as a Trustee Scholar in 1991. Films made at NYU include such classics as: *Be Nice; Alamo Fishsteak; I, Janus; Biscuit Man; The Bridge; Chuck; and Salt*.

After graduation, he made his first truly independent 16mm film, the psychological drama *Charlie's Box*. Encouraged by NYU professors to be "maverick" and use credit cards to finance his movies, Rosette soon found himself with bad credit living in a rough, low end neighborhood in West Oakland. While in Northern California, Rosette worked on low budget independent films, produced and projected experimental films at the George Coates Performance Works in San Francisco, and ate hot dogs. After returning to New York, Rosette worked for several years--amongst other occupations--as a street bookseller in the Village, hawking used and out-of-print books to generate cash to finish a variety of projects. His street book selling experiences would ultimately lead to the production of the award-winning feature documentary, *Bookwars* (2000).

Rosette is currently living and working in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where he has recently directed and edited a social issue documentary called *Crisis*, about land grabbing in indigenous communities in Cambodia. The picture is narrated in Khmer, with indigenous Jarai, Tampuan, and Krung hill tribe languages. He is currently in postproduction on a documentary about biodiversity in the remote Cardamom Mountain region of Cambodia (*Have Forest, Have Life*) which was commissioned by Wildaid, Conservation International, and Flora and Fauna International. Future projects include the feature-length comedy, *Pat and Lloyd's Final Countdown*, and the social issue drama in development, *Snack, Breakfast, Dinner* about the secret bombing of Cambodia (aka *Operation Menu*) during the Vietnam War era.

Linda McElroy, Director
Meredith Dumyahn, Assistant Director
Douglas Berry
Gregory E. Berry
Lindsey Buis
Neil Clements
Cameron Counts
Andy Davis
Molly Fosdick
Patrick Holstein
Ruth Jorgensen
Raechel Kessler
Tim Large
Donna Pleshe
Brett Scott
Chandler Klang Smith
Eric Taxier
Victoria Zimmerli

Special Thanks to

Dean Williams
Projection Equipment

Tim Conrad
Poster Design

Meredith Dumyahn
Webmaster

747 Productions
Springfield & Central Illinois Film Commission
Illinois Film Office

The Filmmakers Who Shared Their Work
Without them we would be staring
at a blank screen.

**Mark your calendars for the
7th Annual Route 66 Film Festival
September 20-21, 2008**

See "Watch My Shorts" on Insight Access 4
Fridays at 4:30 a.m., 12:30 and 9:30 p.m.
for some of the best short independent films
and interviews with the filmmakers.