

10th Annual Artsfest Film Festival
May 23 – 26, 2008

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts
Harrisburg, PA
www.artsfestfilmfest.com

FRIDAY, MAY 23rd

7:00 PM – An Evening with John Waters

Philosopher of filth and reigning king of bad taste, John Waters comes to the Artsfest Film Festival to present an outstanding live one-man show that celebrates his origins of trash with his signature brand of irreverent humor. Mr. Waters' devilishly delectable monologue focuses on his early introductions to the grotesque that influenced the groundbreaking filmmaker and author, continually magnifying his twisted contributions of creativity.

Buy Tickets Online at www.whitakercenter.org or Call 717-214-ARTS.

SATURDAY, MAY 24th

11:00 AM – Empowered Women and the Femme Fatale

Mr. Gary on the Feedback Show

by Lise Swenson, San Francisco, CA (13 min.)

East Coast Premiere

An elderly shut-in conquers an absurd and malevolent media universe when she calls in to her favorite radio show.

Testing the Undertow

By Jennifer Proctor, Grand Rapids, MI (13 min.)

A personal examination of class, pride, and identity as it has played out on the landscape of Marin County, California from the 1980s to the present.

Forced Perspective: Odessa

by Deanna Morse, Grand Rapids, MI (6 min.)

World Premiere

When I visited the real steps at Odessa, I found my visit profoundly affected by my memories of The Odessa Steps sequence from *Battleship Potemkin* (Eisenstein, 1925). Media images have power. They shape our real live experiences.

99 to 1: Ovarian Cancer and Me

by Phoebe Brown, Atlanta, GA (19 min.)

In the summer of 2005 the doctors said they were 99% sure filmmaker Phoebe Brown did not have ovarian cancer. She turned out to be the 1%. This is her story.

Hold On

by Jackie Julio, Los Angeles, CA (20 min.)

A quirky comedy about Rose, a spirited, quadriplegic, physicist who goes to extreme measures in her quest for romance. This engaging, short film is sprinkled with absurdity and symbolism, adding a little spice for the consummate film lover. Starring Doug Olear (*The Wire*, *Something the Lord Made*) and Dominic West (*300*, *Chicago*), and featuring music by Bruce Springsteen.

Phil and Jenny

by Cameron Dixon, Alberta, Canada (16 min.)

Phil is a socially awkward office worker who thinks he is Zorro. Suddenly, Jenny comes into his life and turns his fantasy world into reality.

Alicja Wonderland

by Martin Gauvreau, UK/Poland, (20 min.)

A young couple is looking at a new house, only to have an engagement ring stolen by a young boy. A strange series of events lead to a seductive neighbor in a fairy tale twist. Starring Agnieszka Pekala.

1:00 PM – Experiments in Film**Charlie Rose by Samuel Beckett**

by Andrew Filippone, Jr., Forest Hills, NY (3 min.)

Something has happened to PBS favorite Charlie Rose. The erudite conversations and sober intellectualism have been replaced by an absurd world where illogic, inane dialogues, and open hostility rule. The one-on-one interview between Charlie and his guest begins as usual but quickly goes awry, so much so that Charlie is warned that, somewhere, a man named 'Steve' is 'not happy.' Though this seemingly random statement might confuse us, Charlie understands it for what it is – a threat. But who is 'Steve' and why is he angry? And why does the mere mention of his name stop Charlie cold? Using appropriated footage from a single episode of Charlie Rose, filmmaker Andrew Filippone Jr. creates something both disturbing and farcical

A Song for the Everyday

by Wesley Wetherington, Valrico, FL (3 min.)

World Premiere

A short experimental piece by emerging video artist Wesley Wetherington.

Action Film

by Jennifer Hardacker, Portland, OR (5 min.)

World Premiere

A manipulation of a well-known Hollywood action film. This video makes abstract the image, while maintaining a sense of the original film's action and suspense.

5 Cents a Peek

by Vanessa Woods, San Francisco, CA (7 min.)

A filmic interpretation of a poem by Sharon Olds wherein the circus becomes a metaphor for a woman's performance in, and for, the world. The film incorporates animation, archival circus footage and distortions of the female form to explore ideas of performance, spectatorship and the male gaze.

Chicago Landscape No. 3

by Elizabeth Hoffman, Chicago, IL (6 min.)

World Premiere

A short film regarding the politics of public transportation, hysteria and watercolors. Shot on standard 8mm film and painted by hand.

Autumnal

by Scott Nyerges, Brooklyn, NY (6 min.)

World Premiere

A world in autumn; a requiem for lands not yet departed. This video was produced with hand-painted 35mm filmstrips, acrylic inks, paint, and solvents.

A Diamond Forms Under Pressure

by Paul O'Donoghue, Dublin, Ireland (6 min.)

An anomaly existing somewhere between experimental film and music video, computer animation/ programming, science and art. The improvised electronic soundtrack drives proprietary software, which analyses the audio and generates a cogent synchronous image in real-time. Frequencies push and pull against each other stabilizing or agitating the central image.

Energie!

by Thorsten Fleisch, Germany (5 min.)

From a mere technical point of view, the TV/video screen comes alive by a controlled beam of electrons in the cathode ray tube. For *Energie!* an uncontrolled high voltage discharge of 30.000 volts exposes photographic paper which is then arranged in time to create new visual systems of electron organization.

2:00 PM – Secret Worlds

Just Look in the Silo

by Tom Richards, Harrisburg, PA (3 min.)

World Premiere

Another in the series of music videos for the local noise-metal band Hog Caller. This time, your favorite mascots and Uncle Sam will make you have nightmares!

Sandstorm

by Yeon Choi, Lafayette, LA (2 min.)

In an imaginary land that lacks of water and flesh, two skeleton figures find a pair of eyes in the sand. Their selfish minds start a fight over the eyes, and the fight leads a bitter end.

Aliens

by Ryan Woodward, Mapleton, UT (2 min.)

World Premiere

When children are captured in the moment of some of their most creative moments, aliens, dogs and robots come to life. A four year old girl, embodied as the alien, tells us how it is to be an alien in a world where dogs try chew up their legs and robots protect them.

Notes from the Acrid Plain

by Jonathon Ashley, Brooklyn, NY (15 min.)

World Premiere

Naturalist Burton Hoary hosts a survey of the toxic landscape known as the 'Acrid Plain,' peopled by the masked descendants of the human race. This chapter focuses on the Harvesters, their obscure practices and the perils they face.

The Distance to the Sun

by Andrea Dojmi, Rome, Italy (28 min.)

We visit one of the most secret places ever, the Groom Lake S4 zone, for a unique deep experience. The film takes us back to a remote corner of our imagination, located in our lost memories.

3:00 PM – Filmmakers on the Edge

It's Showtime

by B.E.F. Oakes, New York, NY (2 min.)

An animated music video for the rock group Electric Six. Angry sausage-like cartoon characters walk through the streets of Manhattan.

Mydeath.com

by Collette Copeland, Media, PA (2 min.)

Mydeath.com (a.k.a. how to plan a funeral in 90 seconds or less) humorously asserts the Internet as the ultimate commodified marketplace. Re-contextualizing images downloaded from various 'death' websites, the work celebrates the bombardment of visual information questioning the point at which we reach saturation and how we decipher what information is accurate.

Warrior

by Daniel Zox, Evanston, IL (1 min.)

In the heat of summer a young man scores a soccer goal and is congratulated by a fellow peer.

Tree Hugger

by David Burns, Los Angeles, CA (4 min.)

A young man's erotic relationship to nature, set against a popular anthem from the 1960's. As the awkward relationship between the man and the tree is introduced, the natural soundscape fades away and is replaced with the song "Good Morning Starshine". In this case the man's clothes are cast off, in parallel to the stripping away of the politics of American culture, leaving only the radical erotics of nature and man. The film was recently screened at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Sexy Clown Bitch

by Laura Newman, Brooklyn, NY (4 min.)

An unhappy clown falls in love with a drug addict during a chance elevator encounter. He calls her "Sexy Clown Bitch," inspiring not just a nickname, but a phenomenon.

Fishing with Elvis

by Tom Richards, Harrisburg, PA (4 min.)

World Premiere

Another installment in the crazy adventures of local noise-metal band Hog Caller. Set along the cooling towers of TMI, Elvis gets what he deserves!

It Gets Worse

by Clifton Childree, Miami, FL (33 min.)

Another twisted tale of strange body parts and supernatural antics in a nautical pre-industrial age. Very stylized and soon to be cult classic film, Childree delivers again!

4:00 PM – John Waters' Cult Classic: Desperate Living

See the film and meet the cast!

Don't miss this truly unique opportunity to see a classic film by the legendary John Waters, and meet the stars of the film, including Mink Stole, Turkey Joe, George Stover, Vincent Peranio, and Susan Lowe. Screened in 16mm.

Desperate Living

by John Waters, Baltimore, MD (90 min., 1977)

A rich housewife murders her husband with the help of her overweight maid, and the two go on the run, ending up in Mortville, a town providing refuge for criminals. They shack up with a lesbian ex-wrestler and her murderess lover, before running into the tyrannical Queen Carlotta, ruler of Mortville.

**9:00 PM – Film Festival Meet and Greet
Plus a Pyschedelic Flashback: Head
A bizarre, surreal, romp starring The Monkees**

Note: This event will be held at the Harrisburg Maennerchor, 221 North Street

Everyone's welcome to attend the festival's "meet and greet" event, where filmmakers and film lovers can get together. And don't miss this special screening of *Head*.

Head

by Jack Nicholson and Bob Rafelson, (86 min., 1968)

In this 1968 film, the Monkees valiantly attempted to deflate their own myth. The plot is, essentially, about demystification. Mickey Dolenz, Davy Jones, Peter Tork, and Mike Nesmith - with the aid of writer Jack Nicholson (the only credited author due to legalities)- tackle such topics as filmmaking, the media treatment and madness of the Vietnam War, Davy Jones' "way with the ladies," and, most importantly, commercialization. Each group member is presented in a unique light - in every case shattering the image that had been produced by the media machine.

Shown with:

Untitled

by Jason Dietrick, Harrisburg, PA (2 min.)

Experimental animation on a clear film leader.

The Electric Charge Inside Me

by Tara Chickey, Harrisburg, PA (1 min.)

Hand-painted animation.

Sea of Breath - Cloud of Ground

by Michael Robinson, Harrisburg, PA (5 min.)

Four different animated vignettes/movements combine to relate an abstract narrative.

My Biodegradable Heart

by Dana Adam Shapiro, Edited by Todd Bieber, Lewisburg, PA (4 min.)

Voice Over Talent: Todd Bieber and Juliana Brafa

An Animation featuring a small boy who wants to get closer to his future girlfriend and will ask anything to see how long it will take until she is all his. Recently screened at Sundance, SXSW, and Tribeca Film Festival.

SUNDAY, MAY 25TH

11:00 AM – THE LIVE EARTH FILM PROJECT

Award-winning filmmakers have created these short films, commissioned by Live Earth, to showcase the diversity and creativity of the international response to the climate crisis. The Live Earth Film Project premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival and is sponsored by Absolut.

Devil's Rulebook

by Roman Coppola & Bucky Fukumoto (2 min.)

A playful collage-animation of the many ways evil forces are at work. Roman Coppola's first feature film, "C.Q." premiered at Cannes Film Festival. Most recently, Roman has lent his talents to 2nd Unit Direction on "Lost In Translation," "Marie Antoinette," and Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic," and is a producer and co-writer of "The Darjeeling Limited." Bucky Fukumoto directs music videos and helmed a full-length concert film for Morrissey.

Think (What Does It Take To Change A Habit?)

by Rupert Jones (4 min.)

An elderly customer's plastic bag habits are transformed by simply questioning whether she really needs one. Starring Roshan Seth ("Monsoon Wedding") and Prunella Scales ("Fawlty Towers"). Rupert Jones is a BAFTA-nominated and prolific director of music promos, commercials, television and short films.

Generation G

by Karena Albers (5 min.)

Documentary highlighting how schools can become greener, aiding both the planet and our children's health, and providing them with an environment conducive to learning. Green Schools, an initiative founded in 2004 by parent-environmentalists who were shocked by how un-environmental their kids' schools were and mobilized to improve the environmental health and ecological sustainability of schools in the U.S.

Don't Let It All Unravel

by Sarah Cox (2 min.)

A simple and striking animated film depicting the world as knitting, which slowly unravels over 90 seconds to nothing.

Lorran E Ge

by Casey Affleck (8 min.)

An uplifting look a group of children living in the slums who create a cleaner, more beautiful world to play in with their imaginations. Casey Affleck recently starred in "Gone Baby Gone" and was Oscar nominated for his role in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford."

Wind

by Chel White (4 min.)

Montage of motion controlled time-lapse photography of the earth and weather. Set to a poem by Antonio Machado and read by actor Alec Baldwin ("30 Rock").

Alice In Not So Wonderland

by The Brothers Quay (3 min.)

From legendary stop-motion animators the Brothers Quay comes a dark and surreal variation on "Alice in Wonderland," in which our puppet heroine suddenly finds herself on the other side of the looking glass, witnessing nightmarish scenes.

Polarized

by Amy Berg (9 min.)

A documentary about Shishmaref, Alaska. A village at the eastern tip of Alaska, 150 air miles from Nome, is sinking as a result of the melting permafrost. Amy Berg is the director of the Oscar nominated "Deliver Us from Evil."

Light Bulb

by Joe Cole (3 min.)

A parody of a 'how to' instructional film demonstrating how to replace old light bulbs for new energy efficient ones.

Polarbearman

by Big TV (5 min.)

A man struggles to survive as his house becomes taken over by water against the backdrop of a wildlife documentary commentary about polar bears.

12:00 NOON – A Cinematic Gem from a Rising New Star

The Guatemalan Handshake

by Todd Rohal, Filmed in Carlisle, PA (96 min.)

In the confusion following a massive power outage, an awkward demolition derby driver vanishes, setting in motion a series of events affecting his pregnant girlfriend, his helplessly car-less father, a pack of wild boy scouts, a lactose intolerant roller rink employee, an elderly woman in search of her lost dog, and his best friend – a ten-year-old girl named Turkeylegs.

Pieces of the mystery begin to come together as Turkeylegs sets out to find her missing friend. Cars drive circles in the dirt, a woman attends her own funeral, the sun rises sideways and an orange vehicle trades hands again and again. Everything eventually culminates in a massive demolition derby that throws all of the characters into different directions.

2:00 PM – Festival Favorite Filmmakers

Turtle Derby

by Juliana Brafa, Lewisburg, PA (4 min.)

A trailer for the upcoming documentary "Turtle Derby, about kids who find turtles for an annual traditional race, while their community tries to understand why the turtle population is shrinking dramatically.

Corner Delancey

by Neil Ira Needleman, Katonah, NY (8 min.)

An illustrator tells us about his relationship with his son over the years. As he narrates, we see the sketches he's made of these life events, including childhood, marriage, separation, and reunion. Unexpectedly, Alzheimer's enters their lives and brings them closer even as it pulls them apart. Memories of the past mingle with present-day realities in this simply told and heart-felt story based on several real people and their situations.

Intimidad

By David Redmon, Ashley Sabin, (72 min.)

An in-depth portrait of Cecy and Camilo Ramirez, ages 21, whose dream is to buy land and build a house in Reynosa, Mexico so their 2 year-old daughter, Loida can live with them. Loida lives with Cecy's mother in Santa Maria, Puebla. *Intimidad* slowly unravels, showing how the everyday politics of living on minimum wage without a functioning infrastructure strains their relationship and sacrifices their own intimacy. One year later they return to Puebla during Christmas vacation to reunite with their daughter. What seems like a satisfying reunion and temporary relief from the harsh environment of Reynosa turns into a confusing dilemma between Cecy and Camilo. The conflict threatens to transform the course of their lives and suspend efforts to improve their living conditions, thereby further straining the family's ability to live together. *Intimidad* challenges viewers to understand Cecy and Camilo as people first and interpret their complex lives through a simple story. *Intimidad* was filmed over the course of 4 years and mixes digital verite with Super 8 and 16mm film stock.

4:00 PM – Meet Actor/Director Frank Whaley in Person Plus! Premiere screening of his latest film, New York City Serenade

Meet the festival's special guest, actor/director Frank Whaley. He has starred in more than 50 films including *Pulp Fiction*, *The Doors*, *Swimming with Sharks*, and *World Trade Center*. His directing credits include *Joe the King*, *The Jimmy Show*, and the recently-completed *New York City Serenade*, starring Freddie Prinze Jr., Chris Klein, and Wallace Shawn.

Join us as Frank Whaley shares his experiences and answers questions from the audience.

New York City Serenade

by Frank Whaley, New York, NY (103 min.)

Two down on their luck childhood friends struggle to figure out their lives. Ray, a drummer in a rock and roll band, and Owen, an aspiring filmmaker spend most of their time working menial jobs and drinking. When Owen's fiancée Lynn breaks off their engagement he finds himself spiraling, and allows Ray to come along with him to a two-bit film festival he has been invited to in Kansas. There Owen makes several attempts to patch up his relationship, while Ray scams them into a deluxe suite at the local Four Seasons hotel by posing as Wally Shawn's son (who happens to be receiving a lifetime achievement award) and generally causes a major ruckus. By the end, Owen decides to make some changes in his relationship and in his life.

8:00 PM – Meet and Greet Reception and Festival Awards

All are welcome to attend the festival reception and awards ceremony, where the judges will announce the winning films in the categories of Best Documentary, Best Animation, Best Experimental, Best Narrative, and Best of Festival. Light refreshments provided. Then, stick around for more fun to follow.

9:00 PM – Are You a Mod or a Rocker? Special Screening of The Who's Quadrophenia

Quadrophenia

by Frank Rodam, (117 min., 1979)

London, 1965: Like many other youths, Jimmy hates the philistine life, especially his parents and his job in a company's mailing division. Only when he's together with his friends, a 'Mod' clique, cruises London on his motor-scooter and hears music such as that of The Who and The High Numbers, he feels free and accepted. However, it's a flight into an illusionary world.

MONDAY, MAY 26TH

11:00 AM – Animation Hour

Dear Fatty

by Hsin-I Tseng, Los Angeles, CA (7 min.)

A little girl is writing a letter to her pet hamster 'Fatty' and wondering about its trip as it runs away from home.

String and Girl

by David Bazelon, Los Angeles, CA (6 min.)

World Premiere

Optical illusions illustrate this whimsical tale of a string sharing her memories with a little girl.

Feast

by JiHyun Ahn and Adel Kerpely, South Korea (3 min.)

Who is allowed to eat the creatures in this universe? Who shall eat and who shall be eaten?

This short 2D animation brings up the subject that has been no wonder among the human beings.

Bob and Julia

by Jee Hyun Yoo, Valencia, CA (3 min.)

This is a love story. It is a story about how 'energy' affects and magnetizes people and everything around them. Magnetism is a key methodology to bring different worlds together. It shows how two parallel worlds interact with each other and collide at the same time. There is a couple Bob and Julia on a blind date in a room, and a monkey out somewhere in a forest. The monkey is affected by the couple's actions, and similarly, the couple is affected by the monkey.

Sophie's Secret

by Yen-Jung Chang, Australia (5 min.)

World Premiere

Sophie came across a worm on a street, and the worm penetrated her chest into her body. The worm in her body became her secret. At first she tried to get rid of it, but she amazingly discovers that her parents have worms inside them, too. Finally she realizes the best way to deal with her secret.

L'amie De Zoe

by Danny Robashkin, Minneapolis, MN (2 min.)

World Premiere

When a red family lands on little Zoe's ordinary green planet, a new friend shows her just how unique her green world is and inspires her to explore the colorful galaxy.

Permutation

by Viktoriya Gruzdyn and Katerina Friday, Pontiac, MI (3 min.)

World Premiere

Everything moves in the base sequence of the environment, until an unexpected character and its bizarre behavior enters the scene, causing the alteration of its own physical structure.

The Cave

by Michael Ramsey, Broomfield, CO (3 min.)

An excerpt from Plato's Republic, the film is a classic commentary on the human condition, adapted and brought to life by shooting over 4,000 still photographs of John Grigsby's wonderful claymation. The visual look was achieved by the use of candlelight in a real fire that burned at the back of the set.

The Turtle and the Shark

by Ryan Woodward, Mapleton, UT (4 min.)

After defying King Malietoafaiga of Samoa, and deceiving their families, Fonuea and her husband flee to the island of Tutuila. However, in order to not bring dishonor on their loved ones, they gave up their lives. Based on the Samoan legend, The Turtle and The Shark.

Swimming Moon

by Nahomi Maki, Los Angeles, CA (4 min.)

A being is driven to madness by the full moon, discovering a sensitive, beautiful and deep dream world.

Raccoon and Crawfish

by Terrance Frederick, Oneida, NY (8 min.)

A hungry raccoon searches for food and finds a crawfish on a quest for glory. Their battle will decide the fate between an ego full of pride or a belly full of food. Based on an Oneida Indian legend.

1:00 PM – Local Filmmaker Spotlight: Part 1**Last Man Standing**

by Jason Dietrick, Johnathon Feldman, Benjamin Brucker, Harrisburg, PA (2 min.)

The toilet seat war escalates.

Playmate

by Christa Barkley, Harrisburg, PA (5 min.)

An older couple, still deeply in love, look for a companion, in an odd location. Will they find what they are looking for?

Life at Scale

by Erin Kelley, Carlisle, PA (13 min.)

A short film created in central Pennsylvania by a number of former Temple University students. It is the story of a stop-motion animator whose obsession with work causes him to lose his grip on reality.

The Egg

by Mark Freed, Harrisburg, PA (19 min.)

At his father's funeral, Grover, Jr. desperately wants his father to be remembered as a noble man, but he soon realizes that it was his father's shortcomings that made him great.

Starring: Joseph R. Gannascoli (*The Sopranos, Submission, Basquiat, Ed Wood*), Rob Armstrong (*Guiding Light, All My Children, Nickelodeon's Blue's Room*), David Pearce Roberts (*Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman, Backlash*)

The Blue Eyed Six

by Brian Kreider, Lebanon, PA (55 min.)

A locally produced documentary about the legendary Lebanon County murderers.

3:00 PM: Local Filmmaker Spotlight: Part 2

Second Lazarus: Funding Hope & Healing in South Central PA's HIV/AIDS Community

by Mark Freed, produced by Frank Pizzoli, Harrisburg, PA (10 min.)

Second Lazarus in the film's title represents the second chance life-saving medicines give people with HIV and AIDS. People from the region who live meaningful lives in spite of HIV and AIDS share their compelling stories.

Unraveling Michelle

by Dan Shaffer, Harrisburg, PA (84 min.)

World Premiere

This courageous documentary presents a year and a half in the life of a well-respected East Coast filmmaker - formerly known as Joe O' Ferrell - as he begins to make the transition into the woman he has always wanted to become - Michelle Ann Farrell. The astonishing, long-kept secret is first revealed on-camera to his filmmaking associates. Then with everything in his life at stake, Joe/Michelle audaciously takes his camera crew along for the ride as he undergoes two facial feminization surgeries and begins living and working full time as a woman.