



NEWS RELEASE

Attention: Arts & Entertainment Editors/Assignment Desk

June 29, 2010

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HOLLYWOOD ADORES MISSISSAUGA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL Woody Harrelson and Shaun Majumder Praise MIFF's Indie Roots

MISSISSAUGA, Ont.: Hollywood North captivates hearts south of the border with support from the industry's most-beloved celebrities. The third annual Mississauga Independent Film Festival launches with director Peter Stebbings' *Defendor* starring award-winning actor Woody Harrelson (*The People vs. Larry Flynt*, *The Messenger*, *No Country for Old Men*). MIFF gears up for its biggest year presenting over 40 Canadian films; it runs July 8 to 11 at CinéStarz theatre.

"Independent filmmaking helps characterize cultures by relaying different points of view that might be too risky for studio productions, which tend to be constrained by commercial considerations," said Harrelson. "Festivals like MIFF provide a stage for their recognition. I'm excited *Defendor* is the opening-night feature and hope your audience will enjoy it as much as I did making it."

The strictly-Canadian festival showcases five feature films, including Navin Ramaswaran's *Nara*, Ravi Steve's *Remix to Rio*, Craig March's *The Beast of Bottomless Lake* starring David Nykl (*Stargate: Atlantis*, *Cold Squad*) and *Archon Defender* by David T. Krupicz. The new category for web series, added this year, complements the short film program which makes up the bulk of the screenings. Submissions include a movie by Gemini Award-winning actor/comedian Shaun Majumder (*This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *Harold and Kumar go to White Castle*, *24*).

"I am very excited to have my short film *Mind the Gap* showcased at this year's MIFF," said Majumder. "After leaving Newfoundland as a tween I moved to Clarkson to finish high school, and while living at my dad's Erin Mills home I decided to pursue my career as an actor/writer — now director. Festivals like MIFF showcase some of the best untapped talent and really help them get noticed by the industry and audiences at large; for me it's special because I have roots in Mississauga."

MIFF opens with an exclusive industry gala July 7 at the Art Gallery of Mississauga and culminates with an award ceremony July 11 at the West 50 Pourhouse & Grill. Industry professionals head up the judging panel which includes Amber MacArthur (CP24's *Webnation*, *commandN.tv*). Following last year's MIFF, distributors picked up 30 per cent of the films showcased. Over 2,500 people are expected to attend the festival.

Founded by independent filmmakers, the Mississauga Independent Film Festival prides itself as being a filmmaker-friendly event that champions Canadian talent. A meeting place for the next generation of film professionals, MIFF supports eco-friendly initiatives by pioneering the Film Vert project; an endeavour aimed at producing a festival with a zero-carbon footprint. Based in Mississauga, Ont. MIFF has 10 employees and 70 volunteers. Partnerships with the City of Mississauga and CinéStarz make MIFF possible. Admission is \$8 per ticket. For more information including a detailed event schedule, visit www.MIFF.ca