

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Vote For Reel Expression this Fall**

### **Fifth Annual DC Shorts Film Festival Announces Lineup and Unique Voting Competitions**

**September 11- 18, 2008 at The E Street Cinema**

WASHINGTON—While the rest of Washington is focused on voting for politicians this fall, the fifth annual DC Shorts Film Festival invites people to vote for their favorite short films. DC Shorts is the first film festival in the country to use a special phone-based ballot system to allow the audience to vote for the film of their choice. At each film showcase during the opening weekend, audience members will be given a special code for each movie and they will dial a number and enter the code for their favorite movie.

Each showcase lasts approximately two hours and includes films lasting from one minute – 23 minutes and includes a variety of genres: dramas, comedies, animation, sci-fi, documentaries, and creative, experimental films. There is also a screenplay competition presented at a table reading with professional actors. During the week, 102 films will be screened and six screenplays will be performed.

There are even more opportunities to cast a ballot too - this year there will be two special contests celebrating music. The first contest will allow visitors to the [DCShorts Web site](#) to vote for their favorite original song from this year's films. And, the second competition allows online visitors to vote for their favorite local band to play at the opening night party.

Filmmakers from all over the world are attending the DC Shorts Film Festival. They are not only coming to Washington to see films, but also to learn from each other. *Moviemaker Magazine* included DC Shorts as one of the "25 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee," because of the direct feedback and overall experience given to filmmakers.

**Credentials:** Members of the media should e-mail Laura Gross at [media@dshorts.com](mailto:media@dshorts.com) with your name, e-mail address, phone number and which show(s) you would like to attend.

#### **Festival Schedule**

##### **Film Screenings**

**September 11 – 18, 2008**

**Landmark's E Street Cinema, 555 11<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (Metro Center Station)**

The festival is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased, starting in mid-August, online for \$12.00 at [DCShorts.com](http://DCShorts.com). (Note: many shows last year sold-out, so it is recommended that tickets are bought online ahead of time). A schedule of the festival's screening sessions and a description of the films are available upon request and will be available online in mid-July.

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### **Opening Cocktail Reception**

**Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. – Location TBD**

The event will allow film enthusiasts to meet the visiting filmmakers. Clips of the films will be projected onto the walls and the band that was chosen that are chosen by visitors to [DCShorts.com](http://DCShorts.com) will play at the reception. This event is free to anyone with a valid ticket for either of the 7:00 opening night screenings.

### **Seminars – FREE Event**

**Friday September 12**

**Flashpoint at 916 G Street, NW**

1:00 p.m.: Making the Extremely Low Budget Feature

3:00 p.m.: Guerilla Marketing and Self Distribution of Your Film

Kelley Baker (a.k.a. “The Angry Filmmaker”) will be leading these workshops geared toward independent filmmakers.

### **DC Shorts Booth at Penn Quarter’s Arts on Foot Festival – FREE Event**

**Saturday, September 13**

DC Shorts will present selections from past year’s competitions. This complimentary event will feature films with genres ranging from animation to sci-fi to comedy to experimental.

### **Family Films – FREE Event**

**Saturday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m.**

There will be a free screening of “family friendly films” on Saturday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. Free tickets may be picked up at the DC Shorts booth at the Arts on Foot Festival and at the Columbia Heights Target on Saturday, September 13. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. These films are appropriate for children 8 years and older.

### **Screenwriting Competition – FREE Event**

**Saturday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

**U.S. Navy Memorial/Burke Theater; 701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW**

Watch a script read live at a table reading with local actors and actresses. Choose a winner and see the final film next year. Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis starting at 6:30 p.m.

### **Awards Ceremony**

**Sunday, September 14 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Clyde’s of Gallery Place**

The premiere weekend is concluded with the awards ceremony. At this ceremony, there will be eleven awards given. Prizes vary for each category, but include a cash reward, free FujiColor film, filmmaking (Gorilla) software, plaques and certificates. This event is for filmmakers and press only.

### **Best of the Fest**

**Thursday, September 18, 12:00, 4:00, 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.**

**Landmark’s E Street Cinema, 555 11<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (Metro Center Station)**

The award winners and audience favorite films will be presented during two showcases (one at 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.; the second at 4:00 and 9:30 p.m.). This is a great way to see the highlights of an amazing week in a single setting. Tickets are \$12.

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### **More about the DC Shorts Film Festival**

DC Shorts encourages filmmakers to attend the festival by providing housing, meals, city tours, and passes to all events at no cost to the visiting filmmakers. For this reason, filmmakers from around the world thrive to compete in this festival, not only for prestige and for the hope of winning, but for the true sense of community that is created each year. The DC Shorts Film Festival turns the spotlight on truly independent short films, creating a dynamic mix of new and established filmmakers.

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