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Special Programs Announced for 47th Ann Arbor Film Festival

North America's original independent film festival begins March 24th

Ann Arbor, MI, January 27, 2009 - The Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) announces its awards jury and several special programs for its 47th annual edition, March 24-29, 2009. Screenings for this showcase of high-caliber independent, art-driven, and experimental film will take place inside the historic Michigan and State theaters in downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan.

This year's jury includes three accomplished film talents: Emily Hubley, Rob Todd, and Betzy Bromberg. They will judge approximately 120 films in competition, selected from more than 2,600 films submitted, a 25% increase from the previous year. Winning films receive cash prizes and the chance to go on the festival's acclaimed international traveling tour.

Hubley has made independent animated shorts for three decades, created the animated sequences for "Hedwig and the Angry Inch", and produced work for cable networks Nickelodeon and Showtime. Her most recent work, "The Toe Tactic", a feature-length hybrid of animation and live action, premiered at MoMA in New York. Todd, Associate Professor in Visual & Media Arts at Boston's Emerson College, is a 20-year cinema veteran with dozens of award-winning short films to his credit, including Best Experimental Film at the 46th AAFF. Bromberg, Director of the Program in Film/Video at California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), has been an experimental filmmaker since 1976 and has shown her work in major festivals, galleries and one-woman shows worldwide. She also supervised visual effects on major studio films such as "Terminator 2", "Pet Sematary", and "Scream 3".

The 47th AAFF will proudly present the Midwest premiere of two retrospectives for the late Bruce Conner -- a pioneering multi-disciplinary artist who influenced the likes of Martin Scorsese and David Lynch. Michelle Silva will be in attendance to present the stunning films of Conner, works which are rarely screened publicly and unavailable on DVD or online. Silva will also present a curated program of newer films from legendary experimental film distributor Canyon Cinema.

Mark Hosler, the frontman of sample-based audio provocateurs Negativland, will present a live multimedia show on culture jamming and the infamous copyright adventures of Negativland. Also in attendance, Craig Baldwin brings his fearless and memorable "Mock Up On Mu," a fictional (yet fact-based) story centered on conspiracy theories of L. Ron Hubbard, Aleister Crowley, and NASA.

"The cross-generational convergence of filmmaking firebrands at this year's film festival is going to generate an electric atmosphere," stated AAFF Executive Director Donald Harrison. "The State of Michigan is undergoing a shift toward becoming a stronger film culture and we are eager to present pioneers of film's past, present and future at our 47th festival."

This year's AAFF will include competition programs across all genres: experimental, animation, documentary, and narrative. The full program of films and events will be announced March 3rd. Festival passes are now available online at: <http://www.aafilmfest.org/festival/>

About the Ann Arbor Film Festival

The Ann Arbor Film Festival is the original North American independent film festival – established 1963. The festival is internationally renowned as a premier showcase for independent and experimental films from around the world that are visionary, cutting-edge and artistically-inspired. Pioneers in the world of film and art have shown early work at the AAFF, including Andy Warhol, Yoko Ono, Kenneth Anger, Gus Van Sant, Barbara Hammer, Devo and George Lucas, along with thousands of other influential filmmakers. The 47th festival received more than 2,600 submissions from over 40 countries and will present close to 200 films over six days, March 24-29, 2009. For more information, please visit www.aafilmfest.org.

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