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SHOW BUSINESS

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NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

NY FILM FESTIVAL

Program Guide Inside

Complete schedule of films for the 13th Annual New York International Independent Film & Video Festival

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Actor Reed Clare on location in Queens' Alley Pond Park shooting his 22-minute action epic "Kingdom Come."

Short films: industry calling card of choice

Filmmakers tackle short subjects to achieve long-term goals

By Christopher Zara

Short films have long been the industry calling card of choice for independent filmmakers looking to boost their careers to the next level. For young artists who lack the resources to produce a big-budget feature, making a

stylish short can be a relatively low-cost means of gaining much-needed exposure. The filmmaking community, meanwhile, abounds with stories of unknowns who burst onto the scene with a short film and subsequently find mainstream

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Digital cinema may finally be catching on

2005 was a banner year as the number of digital screens skyrocketed

The number of digital cinemas rose sharply throughout the world in 2005, fueled by an agreement of technical specs drawn up by Hollywood studios back in June. The UK led the charge to bring d-cinema to the

masses. Last year, the UK Film Council rolled out its 240-screen Digital Screen Network amid much anticipation. Ireland echoed the pro-digital sentiments of its neighbor with a project to equip all 515 of its existing theaters with digital capabilities. The trend was mirrored in the US, where the number of digital screens

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Casting/Auditions

★ NEW THE SIXTIES PROJECT

May 5, 9:30AM sharp (men), 2PM sharp (women), Chelsea Studios, 151 W 26th St (6th Ave).

Goodspeed Opera House is casting The Sixties Project. Richard Maltby Jr., dir.; Janet Brenner, conception-writer; Lisa Schriver, choreo.; Mungioni Theatricals, Inc., casting; various composers & lyricists. &350/wk. Rehearses and performs July 18-Sept. 3 at Goodspeed Opera House, East Haddam, CT. Prepare one 1960s pop song. You may or may not be asked to present one additional 1960s pop song. Bring sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Seeking - Young Pop Rock Singers: to play 20s, male and female, African-American or Caucasian, able to move well. Note: performers must be available for all rehearsal and performance dates. If you are unable to attend this call, but would still like to be considered for this project, send pix & résumés immediately to The Sixties Project, c/o Mungioni Theatricals, Inc., 207 W. 25th St., 6th fl., NYC 10001.

★ NEW STAND BY YOUR MAN

May 8, 10AM-1PM and May 09, 10AM-12PM, Nola Studios, 250 W 54th St, 10th Fl.

Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island, IL is holding auditions for *Stand By Your Man*, the *Tammy Wynette Musical*, directed by Michael Licata. \$275-\$350, plus paid rehearsal, housing, meals, and health

club membership provided. Production dates (including rehearsals): Sept. 7-Nov. 4. Seeking - **Tammy Wynette**: mid-20s to 55, strong actor-country singer, who has a vocal & physical resemblance to Tammy, C#-low E below mid C; **George Jones**: strong actor who has a vocal and physical resemblance to George, plays guitar; **Woman**: early 20s, plays Tammy's daughter and other roles, strong country singer; **Five Men**: country musicians, singer-actors, seeking drums, guitar, steel guitar, bass, fiddle, and keyboards, they play all the men in Tammy's life and form the onstage band. Email questions to djih@circa21.com.

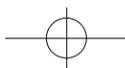
★ NEW TULIP DELUSION

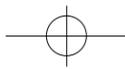
Sibling Films is casting *Tulip Delusion*, a 16mm short film about Stan who's experiencing a relapse of distracting hallucinations that comically and dramatically affect his work and his relationship. D.C. Hagerman, dir. Shooting mid-June. Seeking - **Stan**: 20s-early 30s, well-intending, absent-minded, occasionally witty, fighting to keep his life together, LEAD; **Susan**: 20s-early 30s, Stan's girlfriend, head strong, desirable, frustrated, wants him to overcome it but is at her wits end. Auditions will be held by appt. beginning mid-May in NYC. Send pix & résumés to Sibling Films, 4 Lexington Ave. #5D, NYC 10010; or email to siblingfilms@yahoo.com. No pay, but videocopy, credit, and meals provided.

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NEW YORK'S BEST CASTING NEWSPAPER





INDUSTRY NEWS

Digital cinema spreads

Continued from page 1

jumped to 324 by the end of 2005, up from just 85 in 2004. Much of that increase is due to a co-venture between Disney and Dolby Digital.

For many digital proponents, however, the transformation isn't coming fast enough, particularly in New York City where d-cinema feels noticeably absent. That could all change if local theater owner Ben Kolbert has his way. Kolbert, who for twelve years has owned and operated The Producers' Club Theatres in Midtown Manhattan, has set his sights on a plot of land at the west end of 42nd St where he hopes to create a mixed-use complex for both stage and screen. The concept: build approximately 25 Off-

Broadway theaters that can be converted into digital cinemas. "This would be a great opportunity for digital filmmakers who don't have a place to show their films," Kolbert said. "Film festivals are great, but they're temporary. This would be year-round."

While some industry analysts point to the rise of d-cinema as a sign that the days of traditional film prints are numbered, others contend that there will always be room for both mediums. "It's like oils versus acrylics," said filmmaker Gregg Lachow, a 22-year veteran in the film industry who now runs a digitally-equipped studio in Seattle. "Plenty of artists will never stop using film."

Short films bring big dreams

Continued from page 1

success. Director Joe Nussbaum, for example, was barely out of college when he made the 8-minute cult hit "George Lucas in Love," which tells the story of a lovelorn Lucas struggling to write "Star Wars." The film won several festival awards, and the attention landed Nussbaum a gig to direct the tween comedy "Sleepover" for MGM.

Reed Clare, a local actor, writer and film producer who hails from Calgary, Alberta, hopes to find similar success after the completion of his film "Kingdom Come," an ambitious 22-minute short currently being shot in New York City. The DV film, in which Clare plays a 1st century warrior who reflects on the greatest battle of his life, is being produced in the vein of grand "Gladiator"-style epics — complete with professional fight choreographers, lavish

costumes, and outdoor locations. (The crew even took advantage of New York's record-setting blizzard this past winter by shooting scenes in a snow-covered Central Park.) Clare, along with the film's co-directors Samuel Crow and Rich Song, hope the large scale and professional quality of "Kingdom Come" will draw attention to their abilities as filmmakers while opening the door to future projects. "The idea is to use this film as our credentials," Clare said. "Serious art is born out of serious play, and we want to prove that we're up to the task."

While Clare's ultimate goals may lie in larger projects, he also looks beyond the "calling card" aspect of his short film's marketing prospects. He's already made arrangements to target major festivals like Sundance, Toronto and Tribeca. Additionally, he cites the rise of internet distributors like iFilm and Triggerstreet. Clare sees distribution possibilities that didn't exist a few years ago. Additionally, many art house theaters like IFC Center have revived the genre by screening short films before features. Such prospects are good news for Clare and his collaborators, considering "Kingdom Come's" \$26,000 budget and arduous development process. "It's the culmination of a lot of hard work and perseverance," Clare said. "It's 20 minutes that took us years to realize."

Tax Incentives Raised to \$60M: Filmmakers who shoot in New York City can breathe a sigh of relief thanks to the recent budget increase for the state's popular tax incentive program, which was just raised from \$25 million to \$60 million a year through 2011. The program, which was created to attract filmmakers to New York from cheaper locations like Canada, offers a 10 percent refundable tax credit to producers who shoot in locations throughout the city and state. The credit has been a boon to the local economy, generating millions of dollars and countless industry jobs.

The Promising Fourteen: Administrators at the Sundance Institute have chosen fourteen projects to develop through organization's much-coveted Director's and Screenwriter's Labs this coming June. The projects, which were submitted by writers and directors from eight countries, will be developed under the guidance of various industry advisors including Stanley Tucci and InDigEnt cofounder Gary Winick. Among the most notable works being developed this time around is "Zion and His Brother," by Israeli writer/director Eran Merav, who made a splash with his student short film "Underdog" at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2003. Visit www.sundanceinstitute.org for more info.

INSIDE INK

By John Rowell

RAPP SHEET

Playwright Adam Rapp is on a roll; his film *Winter Passing*, which he wrote and directed, came out in February, and he just wrapped his next film, *Blackbird*, based on his Off-Broadway play. Now he's set to direct a new Off-Broadway premiere, a new play by Christopher Denham entitled *cagelove*, which begins performances on May 10 at Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre. *cagelove* takes a look at a man whose fiancée has been raped by a former lover; as he fights to save their now fragile relationship, he also takes a desperate search to uncover her secret past. The cast includes Daniel Eric Gold, Gillian Jacobs and Emily Cass McDonnell; performances through June 18. For more info, call 212-868-4444.

SPILLING THE JELLY BEANS

Actress/singer/dancer Lindsey Alley was a member of that now semi-legendary cast of "The New Mickey Mouse Club"—you know, the one back in the 90s that spawned the careers of Justin Timberlake, Christina Aguilera and mother of the year Britney Spears. And now through June 6, Ms. Alley

takes a look at her own life in show business so far—that would be the tale of a small town girl making it in the big city, with Mom to thank, of course-- to the Laurie Beechman Theatre on 42nd



Harold Clurman Festival of The Arts at the Stella Adler School

Street in her show *Look Ma...No Ears*, which Ms. Alley co-authored with Stephen Winer (music and lyrics by Bob Stein) and which opens May 6 and plays through June 6. For the record, Ms. Alley no longer hangs out with Justin, Britney and Christina. Sing out, Lindsey! Smile, baby! "M-O-U-S-E..."

AND SPEAKING OF BROADWAY BABIES...

Well, she's not a baby anymore, just one of our most celebrated

musical theater stars, and now Patti LuPone, who is currently wowing 'em as Mrs. Lovett in the smash revival of *Sweeney Todd*, has just released, in my humble opinion, the best album of her career. Ms. LuPone's *The Lady With The Torch* finds the big-voiced diva sampling famous torch songs and making them all her own: such celebrated songs as "The Man I Love" and "Ill Wind" get new, dramatic renditions and she turns June Christy's jazz classic "Something Cool" into a three-act tour de force of acting and singing. *The Lady With The Torch* is available now from Ghostlight Records (a division of Sh-K-Boom Records). Don't miss it.

TRUTH IS FUNNIER THAN FICTION

...especially when Our President says things like "It's in our country's interests to find those who would do harm to us and get them out of harm's way." (George W. Bush, Washington, DC, April 28, 2005.) And the political comedy show *Laughing Liberally*, which "saves democracy one laugh at a time" through live performances, video and music, returns for one night only (by popular demand) to Town Hall on Friday, May 19. If we couldn't laugh, we'd go mad,

wouldn't we? Or has that already happened?! For more info: www.laughingliberally.com.

AROUND TOWN

The Stella Adler Studio of Acting will present the inaugural Harold Clurman Festival of the Arts, which features readings, music, panel discussions and performances from such theater luminaries as Elaine Stritch, Zoe Caldwell, Lois Smith, Roy Scheider, John Guare, Horton Foote and Marian Seldes from May 5-May 8 at the Adler Studio. For more info, call 212-689-0087....Cosmic Breez Productions presents Alex De Witt's new comedy *Prime Time*, in which class, race and pop culture collide in a satirical view of the 2-dimensional stereotypical world fed to America through mass media; Jack Mulcahy, star of the film *The Brothers McMullen*, stars. Performances begin May 5 at The Lion Theater. www.primetimeplay.org.



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