



Brookview School

Coastline Children's Film Festival

Please contact: Leslie Sullivan @ 269 757-1491
or email: atouchofgreatness@hotmail.com

December 28, 2011

For Immediate Release:

The Coastline Children's Film Festival in partnership with Brookview School announces the unveiling of the 2nd annual international children's film festival for Southwest Michigan. This one-of-a-kind family event will take place in six locations in Berrien County, Michigan from February 3rd through February 12th.

To most children across the county, a weekend out of school often equals cartoons and decade-old Disney movies on television. We hope to change that. One of the best things about going to the movies is how magical the experience can be: the flip-up seats, the expectant crowd, the lights going down, and the enchantment of the film. We are offering over 50 films in this year's festival. There's comedy, adventure, love, music, dancing, lots of happy endings and a few sad ones.

This year we are presenting the best short films from the world-renowned **New York International Children's Film Festival (NYICFF)**. They include a kaleidoscopic showcase of the best short film and animation from around the world, for ages 3 to 6 and a selection of the most entertaining, thought-provoking and visually stunning short films for ages 7-12. This collection of award winning shorts will be presented at several locations. The complete list of the Best Short Films from the NYICFF can be found at www.brookviewschool.org. This year we will be presenting a host of outstanding films for the whole family, many for the very young and some appropriate for middle and high school students.

Seeing a movie can be like a visit to a wonder-filled land we may never come across in our everyday lives. The best films provide a place where we are all invited, no borders, no visas required, and no possibility of being excluded or exiled. We expect that in this second year, the festival will serve over 1,000 children. The films planned for this year speak positively to children and families of diverse ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. They include award winning films that have been screened all over the globe—*What's on Your Plate*, a documentary about kids and food politics; *Louder Than a Bomb*, a film chronicling a kids' poetry slam in Chicago; *One Lucky Elephant*, a 1,000 pound love story about a circus elephant's retirement; the 1953 Cannes Film Festival winner, *White Mane*; *Eleanor's Secret*, a charming animated film about the magic of learning to read; and selections from Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts recorded nearly fifty years ago.

Films will be screened in St. Joseph at **the Box Factory for the Arts** and the **Krasl Art Center**; in Benton Harbor at the **Anna Russo Sieber Gallery** and the **Citadel Dance and Music Center** (Music Campus @ 204 Water St); in Three Oaks at **The Acorn Theater** and at the **New Buffalo**

Performing Arts Center at the New Buffalo Middle School/High School, www.nbas.org. The New Buffalo Fine Arts Council, 269 409-1533), is co-sponsoring all of our screenings in New Buffalo.

A three-day workshop for kids ages 11-16 will be held on February 7-9 from 5:00-6:30 pm and a two day workshop for children ages 6-10 will be held on February 10 & 11 from noon-2:30 pm. Additionally there will be a dinner and sustainable food workshop (ages 8 plus) on February 10 at 6:30 pm following the screening of *What's on Your Plate* at 5:00 pm and writing workshop (ages 8 plus) on February 11 from 3:30 -5:00 pm following the screening of *White Mane* at 2:30 pm. All of these workshops will be held at the Anna Russo Sieber Gallery in Benton Harbor. The workshops will focus on storyboarding, visual story telling, film vocabulary, writing, directing, and scene design. Students will walk away with a plethora of information as well as a finished project. These events will require pre-registration and have a nominal fee of \$30 per session. Discounts are available for those who take two or more. Parents may sign up for workshops by going to www.annarussoart.com or calling 269-208-4409, or mail a check to ARS Gallery, PO Box 9151, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49023.

The Krasl Art Center is also one of six host sites showcasing award winning, family friendly films, uniquely paired with studio art opportunities. Following the screening of *Paddle to the Sea* (all ages) at 10:00 am on February 4, artist Tom Hurst will help kids create their very own wooden toy canoes from 10:30 -12:30 pm. At 1:00 pm there will be a screening of *Between the Folds* (ages 8 plus) followed by an Artful Origami workshop at 2:30 pm. KAC will also screen *shorts from the New York International Children's Film Festival* (ages 3-6) on February 11 from 10:30 -11:30 am. A hands-on art activity will be held on February 12 at 2:30 pm after the screening of the French classic *Red Balloon* at 2:00 pm. For information on fees and registration contact Becca Hunt, KAC's Education Programs Coordinator at www.krasl.org or call 269-983-0271.

A final list of all films will be available on January 3rd. For film descriptions visit www.brookviewschool.org.

The mission of the Coastline Children's Film Festival is to bring high quality independent films and animation for children and young adults to Berrien County and to present them - on the big screen - as shared theatrical experiences for the whole family and community. The anchor event for the organization is an annual festival held during the first two weeks in February, in locations throughout the county, with occasional screenings of films in between the core festival. Recognizing that film and animation are still among the most accessible and innovative media for the communication of stories and ideas, the CCFF also sees the provision of educational opportunities as central to its mission. Alongside the screening of animated and live action films, features, shorts and documentaries, our festival participants will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the medium, as well as the craft of filmmaking through hands-on workshops and filmmaker presentations.

A film festival for a children's audience is the first of its kind in Berrien County. The partnership with Brookview School, an independent Montessori school, serving children from infancy to 8th grade, enhances ties with the educational and international community. The sponsorship with the New Buffalo Fine Arts Council, whose mission is: *to educate and enrich the lives of children and adults through the arts*, helps to bring this quality film experience to residents in Harbor Country.

Admission for all films is free; however, a one-dollar suggested donation per person is requested. Parents will be given guidance to content and age appropriateness. For more information call Brookview School at 269 925-3544 or Leslie Sullivan at 269-757-1491.