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Poll

What fall film are you most looking forward to?

- "Burn After Reading"
- "Choke"
- "Miracle at St. Anna"
- "W."
- "High School Musical 3"
- "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"
- "Quantum of Solace"
- Other

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Projecting the world onto Boise?s movie theater screens

Christin Runkle

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Friday, September 19th, 2008

For those who love film, Boise and other small cities can be frustrating places in which to live. The big blockbuster films starring Will Smith open promptly here, but smaller independent and foreign films can take weeks or even months to arrive in Boise after their first screenings in New York and Los Angeles.

The Idaho International Film Festival, which opens Thursday, is a good remedy for that particular ailment. Now in its sixth year, IIFF has been, as festival publicist Celeste Aller put it, "shockingly able to pull in" quality independent films from around the world.

When the IIFF started six years ago, Boise was the only capitol city in America that didn't have a film festival, Aller said. Thus, the festival was created "to enrich the community (and) cultivate local filmmakers" and provide a place for locals especially to show their work.

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Aller also hopes that IIFF will entice directors and producers to consider the state the next time they begin a project.

"I really feel like there will be a payoff in that regard," she said. Already, the IIFF has earned a "reputation among filmmakers as being a really great, welcoming festival."

The festival kicks off at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Egyptian Theatre with "Route 30," a comedy that weaves together three vignettes that take place on the nation-spanning highway. IIFF continues through Sunday, Sept. 28, at the Egyptian, the Flicks and Edwards Boise Downtown 9.

Tickets to films are available at the door and are \$8, \$6 for matinees and \$10 for opening and closing night films. For a complete schedule of films, visit www.idahofilmfestival.com.

Here are some highlights of the weekend's schedule:

n "Sanguinarian" (9:15 p.m. Thursday, Egyptian Theatre, and 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Edwards Boise Downtown): A long-awaited, locally made vampire film.

"Probably every local filmmaker has worked on it at some point," Aller said.

n "Sacrament of Life" (7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Egyptian Theatre and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Flicks): Members of military wrote and made a film of their experiences returning from Iraq. This narrative film is "really intense, certainly not for everyone," Aller said.

n "The Wrecking Crew" (4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at Egyptian Theatre): A documentary about session musicians who played with greats like Sam Cooke, Cher, the Beach Boys, Frank Sinatra and The Carpenters.

"No one ever knew who they were," Aller said, noting that this film by Denny Tedesco masterfully weaves the music of these session musicians into the film.

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