

Get reeled in at film festival

Dan Lea

dlea@idahopress.com

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BOISE — The 7th Annual Idaho International Film Festival returns to Boise Thursday for a weekend of film screenings at the historic Egyptian Theatre, The Flicks and the Edwards Boise Downtown Stadium 9.

Festival goers will have the opportunity to interact with the filmmakers and create an entertaining, dynamic and unforgettable 'Film Festival Village' in the heart of downtown Boise.

"Our goal is to promote culture and arts in Idaho by showcasing films by independent and international filmmakers," festival director Bruce Fletcher said. "Our secondary goal is to highlight, encourage and develop Idaho-based films."

Three free workshops and seminars take place at the Edwards Boise Downtown Stadium 9, Hijinx Comedy Club and The Flicks. The opening gala party is set at Beside Bardenay Thursday, and the closing night gala party will be held at the Hijinx, Sunday.

The 2009 Festival opens with the world premiere of "Drawing with Chalk." Filmmakers Todd Giglio and Christopher Springer will host a Q&A session with the audience following the film, a mid-life, coming-of-age tale.

The festival also features the world premiere of "Nausea" by Wes Malvini with a post-show rock concert in the Egyptian Theatre and the world premiere of "The Highly Contested Election for Payette County Sheriff" by Andrew Ellis and Will Schmeckpeper. Idaho short films include "Stuck," "Hot Smoke & Sassafras," "Blanco," "Dead Oar Alive," "Unmaid," "Home," "Missed, Taken," "Die Erse Reise (The First Would Rub)," "Star n' Guitars," "Crack," "Hard Ride to Hope," "Water," "Route to Peace," and "Bread Alone."

The festival brings back free 10:30 a.m. kid flicks at the Egyptian with "The Twelve Tasks of Asterix " Saturday and Sunday's Make-A-Wish Foundation's "Star Waiters."

Also featured is the U.S. debut of the multi-award winning foreign film "Strigoi." Director Faye Jackson and producer Ray Murau will attend.

The closing night film, "Godspeed," and award-winning thriller set in scenic Alaska. Director Rober Saitzyk will be on hand for a Q&A.

Fletcher loves the late shows and this year the festival offers up "Samurai Avenger" with lead actor Jeffrey James Lippold here to represent the film. Also showing is the psychologically brutal "Blood River" with director Adam Mason and "Cookies & Cream" with director Princeton Holt.

Short Filmmakers 411, a workshop, will provide an introduction to a host of things no one teaches in film school. Filmmaker Ryan Gillentine instructs the workshop from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. next Saturday at the Hijinx.

The festival again presents the incredible Global Lens series, with 10 films from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

For a complete schedule of movie and workshop times, visit idahofilmfestival.org.