



## Kentucky Department of Tourism News Release

### Bluegrass Film Festival Celebrates Successful Third Year

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LA GRANGE, Ky. (September 11, 2007) -- The third annual Bluegrass Independent Film Festival featured nearly 80 films and an awards ceremony honoring the winners in 13 different categories of film. More than 150 people attended the ceremony, capping the weekend-long festival where movie-goers saw the 79 films featured this year in the popular festival sponsored by the Arts Association of Oldham County.

"This festival, our third, was the most successful by far, in terms of quality of films and attendance," said Tamara Lee Fulkerson, festival director.

Festival Master of Ceremonies Bill Ingham and Fulkerson announced the winners at the Great Escape Oldham 8 Theatre in La Grange, the site of the festival. The top prize of Best Feature Film, and its \$2,000 cash prize sponsored by Gallery 104, the Arts Association of Oldham County's gallery in La Grange, went to *The Metrosexual*, directed by Adam Kaufman of Los Angeles. The feature-length film, about the hilarious struggles of a sensitive straight man trying to find love in L.A., made its World Premiere at the festival.

*From the 50 Yard Line* won the Best Family Film award, the \$1,000 cash prize sponsored by Norton Brownsboro Hospital. The film was directed by Doug Lantz and also won a screening by Feature Films for Families and New Movie Corp. The screening may lead to distribution for the film.

The Best Documentary Award went to *The Rhythm of My Soul: Kentucky Roots Music*, directed by Roger Sherman, which lyrically follows Kentucky music to its very roots. The award included a cash prize of \$1,000 sponsored by Acclaimed Studios.

Other awards included:

- Best Regional Full-Length Film: *Soul Searching: The Story of Thomas Merton*, directed by Morgan Atkinson
- Best Regional Short: *Available Men*, directed by David Dean Bottrell
- Best Regional Student Film: *Audition*, directed by Sam Holdren
- Best Short: *Plainview*, directed by Scott T. Jones
- Best Animation: *Shark Suit: The Musical*, directed by Stephen Neary
- Best Comedy: *The Mini*, directed by Ron Beck
- Best Student Film: *Audition*, directed by Sam Holdren

- Best Foreign Full-Length: *Pleure en Silence*, directed by John Gabriel Biggs
- Best Foreign Short: *Homefront*, directed by Ava Karvonen

The cash prizes totaled \$8,750 and were distributed to winners in each category. Award sponsors included Baptist Hospital Northeast, Messer Construction Co., Oldham County Tourism Commission, Turn Key Concepts, Blue Bell Creamery, Best Western Ashbury, AT&T, and Keerthi and Poorna Kemparajurs.

“Approximately 1750 film buffs attended the movie screenings this year while conservative estimates show approximately 600 additional guests enjoyed themselves at our filmmakers’ parties held at Yew Dell Gardens and Waldeck Mansion in Crestwood and Irish Rover Too in La Grange. We also had more representation by directors, producers and actors of our film entries. It was a very exciting weekend in Oldham County that allowed plenty of time for filmmakers and film fans to interact and network.”

Fulkerson said that plans are already underway for the 2008 Bluegrass Independent Film Festival, to be held next September the weekend following Labor Day. “The festival has quickly grown to be a favorite in the region, especially among the independent filmmakers, and we’re sure that next year’s festival will be even better, thanks to a great team of volunteers and an enthusiastic response from all our local officials, sponsors and filmmakers,” she said.

The 2007 festival received 182 entries that were screened by members of the Arts Association of Oldham County and other community volunteers during the spring and early summer.

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*The Kentucky Department of Tourism, an agency of the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet, exists to promote The Commonwealth as a travel destination, generate revenue and create jobs for Kentucky’s economy.*