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Posted by: avivapress

Posted: 11/11/11 09:49 AM



By Maria Esteves – Interview with Flow Affair Filmmaker Wolfgang Busch - Art from the heart, Wolfgang Busch (WB) is producer, editor, promoter, director, and Award-winning

documentarian who began his career as DJ and sound engineer. WB has promoted music artists at legendary NYC nightclubs, is board member, technical director, and volunteer coordinator to many organizations. He has received countless awards in many disciplines. In 1990, Busch television show "New York New Rock" aired weekly on Manhattan Neighborhood Network. He produced, edited, and directed over 700 television music shows.

WB has embraced the performing arts for the underserved and the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) communities wholeheartedly. In 2006, Busch founded Art From The Heart Films, LLC, a New York based special needs video production company. His compelling documentaries include "How Do I Look," the art of Voguing and Fan dance, "A True Lesson in Humanity," people with disabilities in the performing arts, and many others. His latest awe-inspiring must see documentary "Flow Affair," the

art of Flag, Fan, Poi, and Floguing dance premiered Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at St. John Lutheran Church, New York. A live performance by FloKaz Dance Troupe with Flaggers David Wichman and Chris Ofner preceded the New York Premiere. A special Q&A discussion immediately followed with director Busch and cast members George Jagatic, Brad Carpenter, Mike Rahn, and Frank Coronado (living with Parkinson's disease). I had the distinct honor and privilege of interviewing filmmaker Wolfgang Busch in New York on Friday, October 14, 2011.

ME: What inspired the making of the documentary film Flow Affair?

WB: The inspiration was to help empower the LGBT community artistically and financially. We were looking for a tool to do so and decided collectively the best medium is film. I followed the guidelines the community directed me with and became a servant to the community.

ME: Briefly describe the film.

WB: Flow Affair captures the history of the art of flag dance that originated in the Asian culture and introduced in the Western culture by the gay community. It's a flow arts film that includes Fanning, Poi, and Floguing. My first film "How Do I Look," was about the Harlem House Ball (Voguing) community, they used props such as fans. This film is about the Flagging community. I was able to bring the two communities together. In doing so, we created a new dance form called Floguing. We are always looking for new creative outlets to achieve global excellence in our art form.

ME: How long did it take to make the film?

WB: It took approximately seven years to make the film. As a historian, it is my responsibility to put individuals within their own community into perspective, to sort out and record the truth and that takes time. I had to become part of the community, understand their sensitivity, and study who are the leaders (shamans) and the followers.

ME: Where will Flow Affair screen next?

WB: In November 2011, at the MIX Film Festival in Brazil, and in December, at the William Way Community Center in Philadelphia, P.A.

ME: What was your greatest challenge in making the film?

WB: I am self-taught, I am able to do everything myself. Because I wear all the hats, at times the challenge is waiting for inspiration. When I am dealing with corporate matters, I do not feel my creative juices and vice versa. Another challenge is financial because we do not receive any grants. This film is a labor of love because the artists come out and support what I do.

ME: What was the budget for the film?

WB: The budget was approximately \$20, 000. The finance came from the proceeds of the first documentary "How Do I Look."

ME: Where and what year were you born?

WB: I was born November 6, 1955 in Heppenheim, Germany.

ME: Were you raised with a spiritual upbringing?

WB: I was raised Catholic. I separate myself from religion and consider myself spiritual.

ME: Where and what did you studied?

WB: In Germany, I studied and began my career as a dental technician. My passion for the music industry allowed me to become a DJ and sound engineer touring live with bands. Everything was self-taught from club promoting, to making videos, and documentaries.

ME: At what point in your life you became interested in the film industry?

WB: In 1984, I moved to New York and performed sound and lighting volunteer services at the Musicians Union Local 802. I produced seminars, workshops and booked showcases for artists. Then became an independent nightclub promoter and booking agent for the Limelight, Palladium, Tunnel, Danceteria, and the China Club.

As a booking agent, I started to video record the bands live performances and realized my talent for music videos. Eventually, I became involved in weddings, corporate videos, and documentary films.

From 1990-2000, I had a public access weekly TV music show on Manhattan Neighborhood Network called "New York New Rock," where I promoted the artist and acquired the ability to edit, produce and direct. I must have produced over 700 half hour TV shows. I was on the producer's advisory board and received two grants. It was my starting platform for learning TV and video production.

ME: What films have you directed?

WB: In 2006, I directed "How Do I Look," a sequel to "Paris is Burning," directed by Jennie Livingston; In 2007, "A True Lesson in Humanity," a documentary about people with disability in the performing arts shot in Florida where they call me Wolfella; and in 2011, "Flow Affair."

ME: What awards have you been honored?

WB: The acknowledgment and respect received from the communities in making documentary films is most important to me. I received the Humanitarian Award for "How Do I Look" at the 2008 Black International Cinema Berlin, Germany, and many others.

ME: What goals have you yet to accomplish?

WB: My vision is to build an artistic infrastructure for the LGBT community. It takes time and eventually it will all work out. We have Tony Award winner singer Melba Moore involved. I have an

offer to work with four-time Grammy Awards nominee songwriter Michael O'Hara.

Thank you, Wolfgang.

For more information, please visit: www.flowaffair.org.

Posted by: **avivapress**

AVIVA PRESS

Posted: 10/07/11 08:36 AM



By Maria Esteves – The 49th New York Film Festival 2011 (NYFF 2011) press screening of the music documentary **GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD** www.georgeharrison.com, directed by Martin Scorsese was held at Lincoln Center's Beale Theater on Saturday, October 1, 2011, 10:00 am. Presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, a live press conference from London via Skype immediately followed the screening with panelists executive producer Margaret Bodde, director Martin Scorsese, producers Olivia Harrison (George Harrison's wife), Nigel Sinclair, and editor David Tedeschi. Questions posed to director Martin Scorsese, producer Olivia Harrison, and panelists at the press conference included:

The origins of this extraordinary documentary, how did you come to this subject?

How did you decide the structure of the film, deciding what to include, what to leave out, especially when you're dealing with the history of The Beatles, and working with all this archival footage?

What got him the place where he could seek the answers to those questions?

Do you feel he would have still been such a seeker had he just been an ordinary working stiff?

On a similar spiritual quest to George at that time in our culture, how did you think about framing his search in that broader content of what was going on in society at that time?

GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD is a compelling, thought provoking, and awe inspiring documentary based on the life of world renowned singer, songwriter, guitarist George Harrison (1943-2001). The three and a half hour film begins with the success of The Beatles, then going solo as a

musician and singer during his spiritual journey creating timeless classics such as "All Things Must Pass," "My Sweet Lord," and "Give Me Love (Give Me Peace On Earth)." The film includes extraordinary archival footage, interviews with his wife Olivia, his son Dhani, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, Phil Spector, Tom Petty, and others.

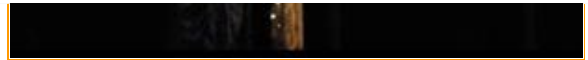
GEORGE HARRISON: LIVING IN THE MATERIAL WORLD, directed by Martin Scorsese | USA | 2011 | 208 m | Documentary Feature | A Spitfire Pictures and Sikelia Production. NY Premiere, 49th New York Film Festival, Alice Tully Hall, Tuesday, October 4, 2011, 6:30pm; debut on HBO October 5, 6, 2011, 9:00pm ET. Available on DVD.



Posted by: **avivapress**

Posted: 08/29/11 11:58 AM





By Maria Esteves – The 2nd Annual New York City International Film Festival 2011 (NYCIFF11) Opening Night Jury Awards presented by Roberto Rizzo honored the best films of 2011 by emerging and established filmmakers from around the world at the Hudson theatre, Thursday, August 18, 8:00 PM. The award presenters were actor M. Macaluso, T. Iz, E. Thai, I. Yako, L. Kruse, and NYCIFF founder Roberto Rizzo.

In 2010, NYCIFF was founded by Roberto Rizzo. His vision is to introduce a solid network to emerging independent filmmakers from around the world. NYCIFF annually presents international films, workshops, free outdoor screenings, opening night black-tie gala, and after parties. NYCIFF director of marketing is Joe E. Goodavage.

This year's festival included 48 films in Times Square and Tribeca (features, documentaries, shorts, animations, TV Pilots) from Albania, Australia, Costa Rica, England, France, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, and USA. The festival also included workshops, free outdoor screenings at Times Square, opening night black-tie gala, and after parties.

NYCIFF 2011 official sponsors were DOLCE The Italian Life, Time Square Alliance, Empire Force Events, CABOT Vermont, West Virginia Film Office, BocceNation.com, BMB.nyc.com, The Copper Barrel, Laser Cometica, PEKO, and New York Lottery.

NYCIFF 2011 opening night ceremony included eleven awards within nine categories (to view complete list goto:<http://www.nyciff.com/awardwinners.html>). A beautiful statuette award were presented to the following winners:

Best Actress Short Film Award

· Presented by M. Macaluso and T. Iz to actress Barbie Castro

Best Actress Comedy Award

· Presented by E. Thai and I. Yako to actress Bein Broderick

Best Supporting Actress Award

· Presented by M. Macaluso and T. Iz to actress Katherine Narducci

Best Supporting Actor Award

· Presented by E. Thai and I. Yako to actor Nick Mancuso for THE LAST GAMBLE. Producer Phil Malandrino, THE LAST GAMBLE, accepted the award on behalf of Nick Mancuso.

Best Score Award

· Presented by M. Macaluso and T. Iz to composer Ralph Rieckermann ralphrieckermann.com

Best International Actor Award

· Presented by E. Thai and I. Yako to Bollywood actor Gulshan Grover for DADA BHAGWAN, and DESPERATE ENDEAVORS

Best Actress in a Leading Role Award

· Presented by M. Macaluso and L. Kruse to actress DENIZ. Leyla Yilmaz accepted the award on behalf of DENIZ.

Best Actor in a Leading Role Award

· Presented by E. Thai and I. Yako to actor Steven Bauer for THE LAST GAMBLE

Best Feature Film Award

· Presented by M. Macaluso and L. Kruse to director Amanda Jane for THE WEDDING PARTY

Best Director Award

· Presented by NYCIFF founder Roberto Rizzo to THE LAST GAMBLE director Joe E. Goodavage

Lifetime Achievement Award

· Presented by NYCIFF founder Roberto Rizzo to actress Sally

Kirkland

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Roberto Rizzo – NYCIFF Founder

As the founder of the New York City International Film Festival, Roberto Rizzo is making a powerful impact for international filmmakers in New York City. Founded in 2010, the festival's vision is to introduce a solid network to emerging independent filmmakers from around the world.

Before founding the New York City International Film Festival, Rizzo is a writer, producer, and director who lives and works in New York. His passion for film began at age four. Rizzo has written, produced, and directed *Trust Me, Couples*, a short film *Fascination*, and a TV Pilot *Connecticut Cooking & Conversation*. He founded Vesuviano Pictures, has appeared in *13, 30 Rock*, *My Father's Will*, *New Amsterdam*, and many others.

www.nyciff.com/home.html

Joe E. Goodavage – 2011 NYCIFF Award Winner

Joe E. Goodavage is an award-winning writer, producer, and director. Goodavage was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate from West Virginia University in Mass Communications and Journalism. In 2008, Goodavage became co-owner of Last Gamble Productions, LLC, in New York. He produced and directed over 75 commercials. His television shows *The Sports Edge* and *Performing Arts Weekly* aired on Manhattan's Time Warner Cable. His award-winning screenplays and independent feature films include *Undertaker's Dozen*, *Blood and Honor*, and *Retribution*. In 2004, *Blood and Honor* received Best Drama and Best Director Awards, Los Angeles Film Festival. In 2005, *Undertaker's Dozen*, received Best Director Award, Los Vegas International Film Festival. In 2006, *Retribution*, received Best Director Award, New York International Independent Film & Video Festival. His feature film *THE LAST GAMBLE* received the 2011 NYCIFF Best Director Award. thelastgamblemovie.com

Sally Kirkland – 2011 NYCIFF Award Winner

Sally Kirkland, born and raised in New York City, is an actress and producer. Kirkland, who trained with the famous Lee Strassberg (Lee Strassberg Theatre), began her career Off-Broadway, has appeared in numerous movies for film and television programs. Kirkland produced and starred in *Cheatin' Hearts*, *Forever*, *Flexing With Monty*, and *Amnesia*. In 1987, her role in *Anna*, received Best Actress Nomination, Academy Award; Best Dramatic Actress Award, Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe Award; and Best Actress Award, Independent Spirit Awards. She also received humanitarian awards including Blue Cross and the Crippled Children's Society.

Kirkland's roles in film and television included *A Star is Born*, *Adam & Steve*, *Another Woman's Husband*, *Best of the Best*, *Bite the Bullet*, *Brave New World* for television, *Breakheart Pass*, *Bruce Almighty*, *Cinderella Liberty*, *Dead Silence*, *Double Threat*, *Ed TV*, *Excess Baggage*, *Falcon Crest* for television, *Fatal Games*, *High Stakes*, *In the Heat of Passion*, *The Island*, *JFK*, *The Kansas City Massacre* for television, *Paint It Black*, *Private Benjamin*, *The Sting*, *Wish You Were Dead*, *Wilbur Falls*, and *The Way We Were*.

In the 2000s, Kirkland's roles in independent cinema include *Audit*, *Night of the Wolf* for television, *The Rose Technique*, *Mango Kiss*, *Coffee Date*, *Off the Black*, and *The Last Gamble*. Sally Kirkland received the 2011 NYCIFF Lifetime Achievement Award.

www.sallykirkland.com

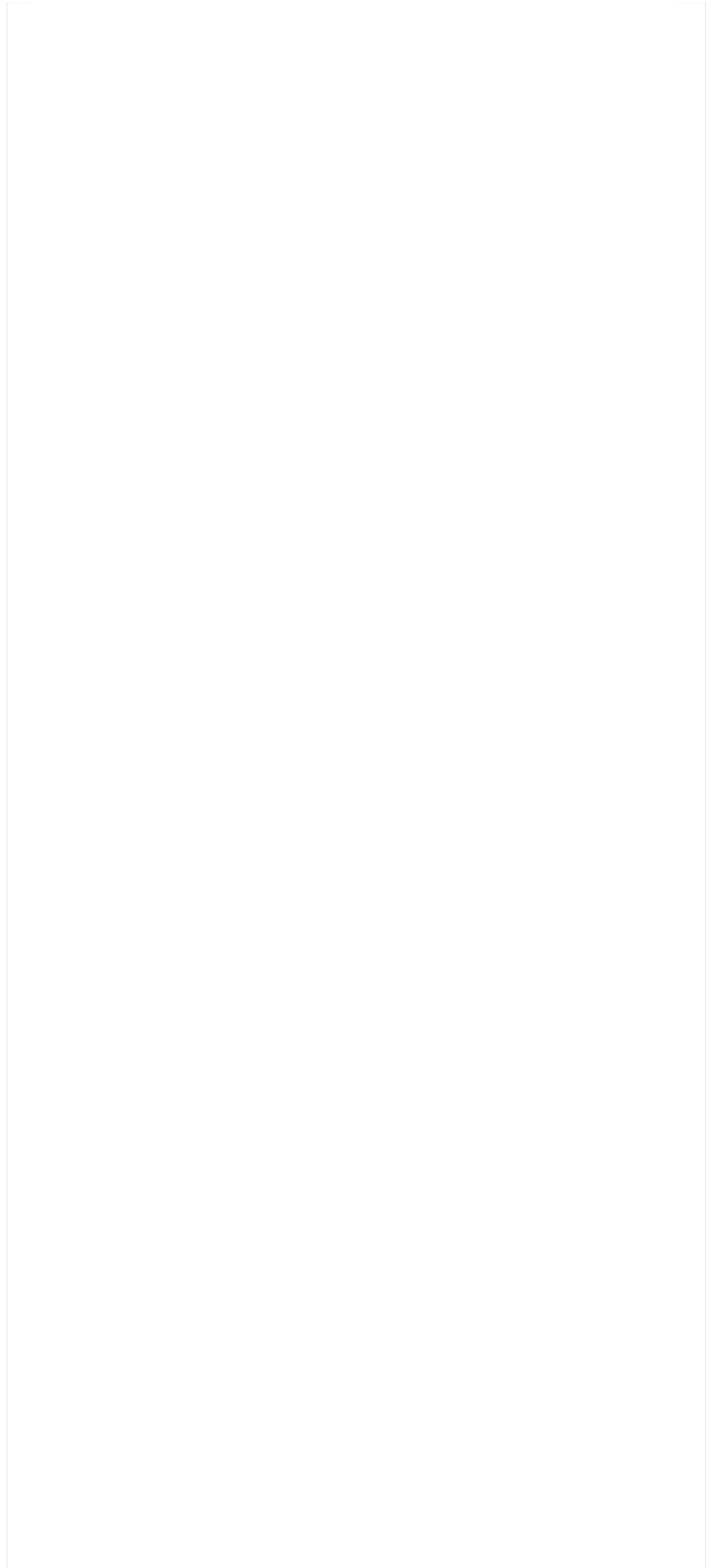
Posted by: **avivapress**



Posted: 08/27/11 02:12 PM

By Maria Esteves – The Second Annual New York City International Film Festival (NYCIFF) 2011, founded by Roberto Rizzo, Opening Night Gala announced its winners at a ceremony hosted at the Hudson Theatre, Thursday, August 18, 7:00pm. NYCIFF 2011 Opening Night Premiere of THE LAST GAMBLE, directed by Joe E. Goodavage immediately followed. Actress Sally Kirkland received the Lifetime Achievement Award, filmmaker Joe E. Goodavage received Best Director Award, and Nick Mancuso received Best Supporting Actor Award for THE LAST GAMBLE.







Posted by: **avivapress**

Posted: 08/15/11 04:35 PM



By Maria Esteves – The 34th Asian American International Film Festival 2011 (AAIFF11) Opening Night New York premiere of AMIGO, directed by John Sayles, commenced Wednesday, August 10, 7:00 pm, at the Chelsea Clearview Cinemas. A special Q&A session with director Sayles, producer Maggie Renzi, and actor Joel Torre moderated by Associate Director of Programming, Scott Foundas, Film Society of Lincoln Center, preceded the festivals Opening Night Reception at Art Gate Gallery.

AMIGO, is a powerful and provocative must see drama film based on a true story! Set in 1900 in the Philippines, the film depicts two brothers with strong spiritual beliefs Simon (Ronnie Lazaro) and Rafael (Joel Torre) caught in the crossfire between politics and religion. They are compelled to tempt fate against all odds, one for war and the other for peace.

AMIGO, written/directed by John Sayles | USA | 2011 | 128 m | Drama Feature | Tagalog, Spanish, English, Chinese, w E/S | distributed by Variance Films, A Pinoy Pictures production. Best Production Design Award winner, 2011 Gawad Urain; Premieres, 2011 Asian American International Film Festival, New York; in select theaters August 19, 2011.



Posted by: **avivapress**

Posted: 08/06/11 04:03 PM



By Maria
Esteves –
The Second
Annual
2011 New
York City

International Film Festival (NYCIFF) Opening Night Premiere of The Last Gamble, directed by Joe E. Goodavage commence Thursday, August 18, 6:00pm at the Hudson Theatre. Presented by Roberto Rizzo, 2011 NYCIFF Opening Night Red Carpet Gala is surely Broadway's star-studded black tie event not to miss. I had the honor and privilege chatting with associate producer April DiGiorgio (AD) on Friday, August 5, 2011.

ME: How did you get involved with The Last Gamble?

AD: I met director Goodavage at my previous job. At the time, he was filming The Last Gamble psychiatrist scene and asked me if I can assist administratively with the project. I said, "Yes, and

I would love to be an assistant on the set as well." He said, "That's great, you can assist administratively during the workweek and weekends on the set." My responsibilities consisted of assisting administratively, coordinating, and collaborating with cast members and crew such as Phil Malandrino. In addition, I became involved in a scene on the set, remained staffed during production, and promoted to associate producer.

ME: What was it like working with director Goodavage?

AD: As a director, Joe is very passionate, focused, serious and joyous to work with gaining respect from cast members and crew such as Steven Bauer, Sally Kirkland, Nick Mancuso, Vinny Vela, and many others.



Posted by: **avivapress**

Posted: 02/24/11 01:17 PM



Maria Esteves – The **Fifth Annual MEET THE OSCARS Exhibition Opening Ceremony** presented by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), New York program director Patrick Harrison, and hosted by Academy Award winning actress Whoopi Goldberg commenced Wednesday, February 23, 2011, 2:45pm, at the Vanderbilt Hall East Side, Grand Central Terminal, New York.

This year's exhilarating exhibition display *How An Oscar Is Made*, a series of Oscars in various stages of completion, manufactured by R.S. Owens & Company; the Oscar statuette won by Billy Wilder for Best Picture in *THE APARTMENT* (1960); and a hand held Oscar statuette for the public to hold, take photos, and make a speech. In addition, two authentic Oscar statuettes on display will be honored to the Best Actor and Best Actress recipient at the 83rd Academy Awards, on Sunday, February 27, 8:00pm ET, 5:00pm PT at the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood, California. In the United States, the Oscar presentation is televised live on ABC Television Network and in more than 200 countries worldwide. Meet the Oscars, Grand Central admission is free and open to the public, February 24-27, 7:00am-7:00pm. For more information, visit: www.oscars.org/meettheoscars.

AMPAS New York program director Patrick Harrison introduce host Academy Award winning actress Whoopi Goldberg at Meet the Oscars, Grand Central Exhibition Opening Ceremony, Wednesday, February 23, 2011.

Meet the Oscars staff member describes *How An Oscar Is Made* exhibit on display. The Oscar statuette manufactured by R.S. Owens & Company, is first cast using the metal alloy britannia, then plated with copper, nickel, silver, and 24-karat gold. Oscar statuette weighs 8.5 pounds and stands 13.5 inches tall.



Posted by: **avivapress**

Posted: 02/22/11 02:44 PM



By Maria Esteves – Oscar Week in New York kicked off with the 2011 Academy Award Nominated Shorts Presentation at the Academy Theater International Lighthouse, New York, on Saturday, February 19, 12:00pm. Presented by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), produced by New York program director Patrick Harrison, AMPAS, A Weekend With Oscar annually showcase the Academy's short film nominees for best short film in the category of Live Action, Animated, and Documentary. Despite frigid temperatures in New York City, this year's Weekend With Oscar nominated shorts two sold out presentations gave the lucky audience an opportunity to see all fifteen short films in a two-part program (SHORTS! and DOC SHORTS!). A special Q&A session with filmmakers Luke Matheny, GOD OF LOVE, and Ivan Goldschmidt, NA WEWE (U2) moderated by AMPAS New York program director Patrick Harrison immediately followed the screening.

The 83rd Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2010 co-hosted by actors James Franco and Anne Hathaway will commence Sunday, February 27, 2011, 8:00 PM EST at the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood, CA, and televised live by ABC Television Network, and in more than 200 countries worldwide. Presenters at the 83rd Academy Awards include Russell Brand, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hanks, Nicole Kidman, Scarlett Johansson, Robert Downey Jr., Annette Bening, Jude Law, and Reese Witherspoon. A Weekend With Oscar - 2011 Academy Award Nominated Short Films presentation in New York included:

SHORTS!*Live Action*

GOD OF LOVE, directed by Luke Matheny. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

THE CRUSH, directed by Michael Creagh. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

WISH 143, directed by Ian Barnes. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

THE CONFESSION, directed by Tanel Toom. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

NA WEWE (U2), directed by Ivan Goldschmidt. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

Animation

GRUFFALO, directed by Jacob Schuh and Max Lang. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

THE LOST THING, directed by Shaun Tan and Andrew Ruhemann.
Watch trailer www.youtube.com/watch

MADAGASCAR, carnet de voyage, directed by Bastien Dubois.
Watch trailer www.youtube.com/watch

LET'S POLLUTE, directed by Geefwee Boedoe. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

DAY & NIGHT, directed by Teddy Newton. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

DOC SHORTS!

KILLING IN THE NAME, directed by Jed Rothstein. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

POSTER GIRL, directed by Sara Nesson and Mitchell W. Block.
Watch trailer www.youtube.com/watch

STRANGERS NO MORE, directed by Karen Goodman and Kirk
Simon. Watch trailer www.youtube.com/watch

SUN COME UP, directed by Nicolas Schmerkin. Watch trailer
www.youtube.com/watch

THE WARRIORS OF QUIGANG, directed by Ruby Yang and
Thomas Lennon. Watch trailer www.youtube.com/watch

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