

Small Town Film Festival Comes to Armonk May 6-7

The inaugural Small Town Film Festival comes to Armonk on May 6-7 to present two nights of dramatic shorts and feature length films, along with an opportunity to discuss the films with the directors and producers who made them.

The festival, to be held at Whippoorwill Hall, was founded by Armonk residents Sam Morell and Donna Garr, who are the combined force behind the successful Small Town Theatre Company, also based in Armonk. They both share a vision and a passion to work with highly creative, talented, and dedicated people to produce high quality cultural events in Westchester.

Independent producer and Armonk native, Evan Ferrante ("Across the Hall," "Teenage Paparazzo") has come aboard as festival director and programmer. The Small Town Film Festival believes in giving back to its community and giving the gift of cinema is one way we hope to achieve this aim.

The opening night feature film, "The Cake Eaters," directed by Mary Stuart Masterson, is a quirky, small town drama that explores the lives of two interconnected families as they confront old ghosts and discover love in the face of devastating loss. "The Cake Eaters" features a standout performance by Kristen Stewart.

The closing night feature film, "Roll Out, Cowboy," directed by Elizabeth Lawrence, follows Chris "Sandman" Sand, a "rappin' cowboy" from the small town of Dunn Center, N.D. The film follows the 39-year-



Evan Ferrante, producer of "Across the Hall," one of the featured short films in the upcoming Small Town Film Festival, and the event's director and programmer. The Small Town Film Festival, founded by Donna Garr and Sam Morell, will make its debut May 6 and 7 at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk.

old country/hip-hop musician as he tours the American West during the 2008 Presidential election and proves that small town America isn't as conservative as we think.

May 6 Short Film Lineup

"Across the Hall" Directed by Alex Merkin and produced by Evan Ferrante. The suspenseful short follows a distressed man as he stakes outside of his fiancé's seedy hotel room, after finding out that she is partaking in an affair. As the man sits across the hall from his fiancé with a revolver and bottle of whiskey in hand, his friend

associated with her death.

"Late Bloomer," directed by Craig MacNeill, is a short loosely based on the dark tales of HP Lovecraft. "Late Bloomer" is a compelling and humorous initiation into one young boy's first seventh-grade sexual education class.

Saturday, May 7 Short Film Lineup

"The Boundary" is written, produced and directed by Julius Onah, one of Filmmaker Magazine's 2010 "25 New Faces of Independent Film." The film follows a family on its way home and forced to deal with circumstances it would never hope

for. Onah will also be screening his short film, "Goodbye Chicken, Farewell Goat," which takes a deep look into a filmmaker's journey as he meditates about the death of his father.

"The Summons," directed by Olenka Denysenko, is a portrait of one man's struggle with pain and loss. When Gordon Lish receives a letter addressed to his dead wife, Barbara, summoning her for jury duty, he is forced to compose a response to a faceless bureaucrat, and in so doing, relives the pain

"Coming Home," directed by Lee Scharfstein, explores a young man's shocking homecoming. Kyle's hometown has become a "special place" that attracts highly evolved individuals – five of who have been adopted by his mother. After meeting his new "brothers and sisters," Kyle realizes his journey home was anything but a random series of events.

"The Merciful Death of Jonas Blake," directed by Seth and Nathan Anderson and produced by Jason Hagen, trails a young cowboy as he wanders the land searching for a future. The young man encounters a woman and decides to give up his previous life as he finds that her culture is something he can't bargain with and a love he can never truly have.

Friday's program begins at 6 p.m. and Saturday's lineup is at 5 p.m. Tickets for both evenings can be purchased through the website, www.SmallTownFilm.com, or by calling 914-273-0300. General admission tickets for each evening are \$20. An additional \$5 will include a post screening reception with filmmakers, directors and producers at The Beehive Restaurant on May 6 and Restaurant North on May 7, both in Armonk.

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