

Marblehead Festival of Arts

For Immediate Release

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Marblehead Festival of Arts Announces Lineup for Winter Film Festival

Scene from Gay by Dawn to be featured at February 16th Event

Marblehead, MA (February 3, 2006) – The Marblehead Festival of Arts announced the lineup for its upcoming Winter Film Festival, to be held Thursday, February 16, at Abbot Hall (188 Washington St. Marblehead) beginning at 7:30 PM. The program is an encore presentation of the films screened at Crocker Park during the Marblehead Festival of Arts summer Film Festival. Admission is free. The entire listing may be viewed at: www.marbleheadfestival.org

During the summer Film Festival, the first ever **People's Choice Award for Film** was held. Mike Evers, Chairperson of the Festival Film Committee, explains, "This year, we asked the Film Festival audience members to choose the film they liked the best. By an overwhelming margin, they chose the horror comedy film, *Gay by Dawn*. The second favorite choice was the animation, *Dear Sweet Emma*. Other significant favorites were *Flyaway*, *Wages of Sin*, and *Green Thumb*."

It must be noted that these works are intended to show the many ways that film and video can be used as an art form to inform and express. They are not commercial films found in your standard multiplex. While some of these works may certainly be enjoyed by children, not all of the films will be understood by them. Parents should review the lineup and decide if they are appropriate for their young children.

Led by Mike Evers, the Winter Film Festival Program was designed by Committee members Barbara Papish, Sandy Rhoads, Bill Smalley, Lauri Stolarz and Caryle Anne Wildfield and will include the following films:

Ground Zero/Sacred Ground, Karen Aqua (9 minutes)

This film was not included in the summer program.

Lobster Legs, Corey Corcoran and Lisa Needham (4:30 minutes)

A short film from Lynn's Raw Art Works (RAW) Real to Reel Film School shows Lisa Needham's family digging into a mound of freshly boiled lobsters with great gusto. Eavesdrop on their party! Send them your spare paper towels!

Wages of Sin, Alfred Thomas Catalfo (18 minutes)

A major league ballplayer with an inflated sense of self-worth walks out of spring training in an attempt to force the owners to renegotiate his contract. Then he has an accident and wakes up to a world in which ballplayers are minimum wage workers and plumbers are superstars. Alfred Thomas Catalfo is a screenwriter, actor, former MTV, singer-songwriter, MTV video producer — and a trial attorney in Dover, New Hampshire.

Andaluz, Karen Aqua and Joanna Priestley (6 minutes)

An animated film inspired by the culture, landscape, and architecture of Andalucia, the region of Southern Spain where the filmmakers spent time several years ago. Bright colors slip, slide, and dance to an infectious flamenco soundtrack. A winner of film festival awards from San Francisco to Boston. The two artists are long time filmmakers; Karen Aqua has won numerous prizes in her lengthy career and has animated segments for the "Sesame Street" television program.

Flyaway, John Cernak and Danny Oakley (9 minutes)

A bittersweet animated tale about a wooden toy plane who tries what it can only dream of doing, and succeeds, if only for a moment. *Flyaway* is a film produced by Out of Our Minds Animation Studios in Winston-Salem, North Carolina (www.outofourmindsstudios.com) and has won numerous awards (17) in film festivals around the country.

Les Pantins, Benoit Maestre (14 minutes)

This silent film traveled from Toulouse, France, to be in the Film Festival. *Les Pantins (The Puppets)* tells the story of a traveling actors' troupe preparing for a show in a small French village. Disaster strikes one of the actors and everyone is on edge. Benoit Maestre is a 29-year old filmmaker who has done a number of short documentaries and experimental fiction films.

Deuces Wild, Emily Roberts (3:30 minutes)

Emily Roberts made her appearance last year at the Film Festival with *Empire of Dirt*, a short film she made when she was in high school. This year, the Brown University student has submitted a moving animated piece about what it means to be left out in a world where pairing is the norm.

Green Thumb, Peter Pa (5:30 minutes)

Another short film from Raw Art Works, this is the filmmaker's heartfelt — and humorous — tribute to his mother, whose life encompassed experiences that would have taxed the endurance (and sanity) of a lesser person.

Dear Sweet Emma, John Cernak (5:30 minutes)

She's the lady everybody in the town of Fishtickle loves—but whatever became of her husband? He just disappeared, and after a while they all gave up looking. We are invited into the lady's house for a look around and we see a different side of this paragon for whom "cleaning the house" means

more than dusting the furniture. This is another animation from Out of Our Minds Studios (see *Flyaway Minutes*), and has won numerous awards at many film festivals.

The 1000 Mile Step, Angela Santora (3 minutes)

In this entry from Raw Art Works, Angela Santora shows us how she "gets away from it all" in the comfort of her room and her posters.

Girl with Pail, Paul Van Ness (4 minutes)

This unusual film shows how a fragment of a video can inspire a painting—and you see the painting actually being made before your eyes. Paul Van Ness is a painter and filmmaker and the director of Van Ness Creative Group, a production company in Beverly.

Gay by Dawn, Jonathan London (10 minutes)

It's a dark night in the woods, and four gents are telling each other ghost stories in this comedy horror film. Things get out of control when one of them tells about a man lost in the woods. Chaos ensues and homophobia gets a well deserved skewering. Definitely not for the squeamish. Jonathan London is a filmmaker who lives in Los Angeles. *Gay by Dawn* was made while he was a student at Columbia University and has been shown in film festivals both in the United States and abroad and has won four awards.

Weakest Shade of Blue, Lisa Needham and Corey Corcoran (3:30 minutes)

A music video directed by two Raw Arts filmmakers set to the song by the Boston-based Pernice Brothers, this film, a "rumble and love fest" (according to the Boston Phoenix) between karate kids and little ballerinas, was shot on the beach at Salem Forest River Park. The video was accepted for airplay on MTV and MTV2.

About Marblehead Festival of Arts (MFA)

Founded in 1962, the Marblehead Festival of Arts has a rich history in producing a premier summer arts festival that has become a unique forum for artistic expression. Traditionally held each year over July 4th weekend, the Marblehead Festival of Arts hosts a wide range of art exhibits (painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, etc.), outdoor music concerts overlooking Marblehead Harbor, Writer's World, the Street Festival, Children's Festival, Artisan's Marketplace and many other cultural activities designed to provide a fun and enriching experience for the entire family.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts Inc is a not-for-profit organization comprised of area residents who volunteer their time and services in a variety of capacities. With the mission to promote and foster artistic events and activities in the town of Marblehead, this organization was launched in 1962 by producing an annual Arts Festival. Today, in addition to its summer arts program, the Marblehead Festival of Arts sponsors events throughout the year, promotes area artists, supports up and coming art students via an annual scholarship and contributes to the town's overall cultural climate.

The Marblehead Festival of Arts is run by an all-volunteer organization comprised of more than forty committees and involving several hundred volunteers. It operates year round and relies primarily on donations to fund its operations. Individuals, families, and businesses may become Festival Sponsors by making a tax-deductible contribution. For additional information on MFA, a calendar of events, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship, please call: **781-639-ARTS (639-2787)** or visit: www.marbleheadfestival.org

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