



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The Best of the 34th Northwest Film & Video Festival October 15, 6 PM

Missoula, MT / September 2, 2008 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / The Best of the 34th Northwest Film & Video Festival touring program presents a carefully selected cross-section of the state of filmmaking in the Northwest. These films—all chosen as official selections by Festival Judge Heike Kuhn—screened at the Festival in Portland this past November. The Northwest Film Center presents this showcase in an effort to bring the filmmakers wider exposure and to offer this independent regional work to venues large and small and especially to those smaller communities where it is historically more difficult to access. This DVD is available for public screenings by contacting Thomas Phillipson at the Northwest Film Center (thomas@nwfilm.org). Profits from screening rentals are distributed back to the filmmakers whose work is included.

The DVD begins with trailers for the 33rd Festival. The entire DVD runs 84 minutes.

JUDGE'S BIO

Heike Kuehn is a writer and film critic based in Frankfurt, Germany. A contributor to *Die Zeit*, *Berliner Zeitung*, *Frankfurter Rundschau*, *Die Welt*, and the film magazine *epd-film* she is a member of the collective that runs the annual film seminar *Arnoldshainer Filmgespräche*. She has served on numerous juries of the *Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique (FIPRESCI)*, including the *Locarno International Film Festival*, *Oberhausen International Short Film Festival*, *Duisberg International Documentary Film Festival*, *Crakovia Short Film Festival*, *Karlovy Vary International Film Festival* (for which she also served as president) and, most recently, the *Montreal Film Festival*.

SARI'S MOTHER

Judge's Award Winner

James Longley / Seattle

In *SARI'S MOTHER*, filmed in Iraq over a period of one year, Longley (*GAZA STRIP*, *IRAQ IN FRAGMENTS*) follows a courageous mother as she struggles to get medical help for her 10-year-old son, Sari, who is dying of AIDS. An intimate, revealing portrait, *SARI* uncovers an aspect of life in Iraq that few outside the country have witnessed (21 mins.)

NO BIKINI

Claudia Morgado Escanilla / Vancouver, BC

"I had a sex change once, when I was six or seven years old." The opening line of *No Bikini* introduces us to a young girl who defies convention during her summer swim

class. Filled with humour, this film is less about defining one's gender than it is about discovering personal strength. (8 mins.)

MORRIS

Adam Locke-Norton, Ryan Warren Smith, Nathan Fielder / Vancouver
Well into his eighties, Morris decides it's time to come out of the closet. (6 mins.)

PORTRAIT #2 TROJAN

Vanessa Renwick / Portland
A looming icon of the Columbia River Gorge—either a throwback to or preview of a nuclear age—gets its stoic comeuppance in this requiem for a heavyweight. (5 mins.)

POTL: THE PENGUIN ON THE LEFT

Rick Guinan / Portland
On an ice flow where a penguin's life is subject to a walrus' appetite, a gun makes a difference. (3.5 mins.)

ALL BROKE UP

Mark O'Connell / Seattle
Masterful manipulation of archival footage weaves an indictment of justifications for torture and for the complacency of those standing by. (4 mins.)

SOMETIMES

Scott Amos / Victoria, BC
This reflection on the unintended dystopia of life is short, and, in its own way, sorta sweet. (30 sec.)

OPERATION: FISH

Jeff Riley / Portland
A child's goldfish is abducted and an agent is dispatched to rescue it. (10.5 mins)

BY MODERN MEASURE

Judge's Award Winner

Matthew Lessner / Nehalem, OR
Two young Americans meet outside a Taco Bell in this stylish spree right out of the French New Wave. (6 mins.)

PATTERNS 3

Judge's Award Winner

Jamie Travis / Vancouver
In the vibrant split-screen musical finale to THE PATTERNS TRILOGY, Pauline and Michael reveal through songs the nature of their enigmatic relationship. (18.5 mins.)

Contact: For more information please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406-728-0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Linden How, Visitors Services Director, lindenhow@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x230.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. MAM educates, challenges and inspires the community through contemporary art. MAM preserves our emerging cultural heritage through the development and conservation of its art collection. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tues-Fri, 11AM-5PM, Sat, 10AM-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.