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Press Inquiries
SIFF Publicity Department
206.624.1179
press@siff.net

SIFF PARTNERS WITH ADOBE YOUTH VOICES TO SPOTLIGHT YOUTH FILMMAKERS

15 Films to be Paired with 15 Select Features at 37th Seattle International Film Festival

Seattle, WA – The 37th Seattle International Film Festival, the largest and most highly-attended event of its kind in the United States, in conjunction with Adobe Youth Voices, today announced its selections. The Festival, which runs from May 19 through June 12, will feature 15 films by youth filmmakers that will be paired with selected feature films.

SIFF supports young filmmakers through the FutureWave: Expanding Cinema Through Education program, which includes SIFF Goes to School filmmaker visits, special youth juries, teen-oriented feature films, a youth-directed short film package, and the SuperFly Filmmaking Workshop in partnership with Longhouse Media. Last year, SIFF FutureWave programs gave more than 10,000 youth under the age of 19 a chance to experience the Festival and learn more about film.

“Last year’s inaugural partnership with Adobe Youth Voices Program was immensely successful. We are excited to welcome the program back to this year’s Festival and to provide a platform to showcase, celebrate and encourage the next generation of filmmakers from across the globe,” said SIFF Artistic Director Carl Spence.

The Adobe Youth Voices program encourages youth filmmakers to create films with purpose. These year’s selections are all original, thought-provoking, and dynamic films that appeal directly to a wide audience.

SIFF 2011 Adobe Youth Voices Shorts

Ctrl Z (Undo), directed by Students at Vivekavardhini High School (India, 2008)
What if we could undo how we’ve damaged the earth? Screening with *Revenge of the Electric Car* on June 8, June 10, and June 12.

Deaf Not Dumb, directed by Offscreen (United Kingdom, 2011)
A group of young deaf people have gathered to produce this sensitive and thought-provoking statement. Screening with *The Green Wave* on June 5 and June 6.

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Don't Regret, directed by Brianna Niver (USA, 2009)

A poem is vividly brought to life. Screening with *To Be Heard* on June 9 and June 11.

If I Could Do Anything, directed by Nikita Tu (USA, 2010)

What would you do? Screening with *Marathon Boy* on May 30 and June 5.

Just Be You, directed by Eric Ruiz (USA, 2008)

How do youth feel about gay people? How do youth feel about being gay? Screening with *Do You See Colors When You Close Your Eyes?* on May 31 and June 4.

Proud To Be A Woman, directed by Miari Scott (USA, 2010)

A music video that inspires pride in women and reminds us of all the female role models we have. Screening with *Jucy* on May 27 and May 28.

Our Hijabs, directed by Students at West Seattle Elementary School (USA, 2008)

Young girls from Seattle discuss the perception of women who wear hijabs. Screening with *Circumstance* on June 4 and June 6.

Recycle, directed by Alex Larioza (USA, 2010)

An animated reminder that recycling is an important way for us to care for the planet. Screening with *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front* on May 25 and May 29.

Recycle Fu, directed by Redwood City Adobe Youth Voices Peapod Academy (USA, 2008)

Beware of who might be watching when you don't recycle. Screening with *Bruce Lee, My Brother* on May 27 and May 28.

Technicolor Love, directed by Rachel Townsend (USA, 2011)

Two animated dreamers wake to the realization that they must find each other. Screening with *The Sandman and the Lost Sand of Dreams* on May 21, May 27 and May 29 and with FutureWave Shorts on May 30.

The Way You Are, directed by Cynthia Pineda (USA, 2009)

A musical celebration of the things that make us who we are. Screening with *Norman* on June 2 and June 4.

We Wonder, We Create, directed by Students at South Shore School (USA, 2011)

Using a variety of styles of animation, elementary school students describe the creative process. Screening with *Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey* on June 3 and June 5.

What About Us? directed by Bassem Refaat and Shady Wassily (Egypt, 2010)

Young songwriters propose the answers to the uncertainties and doubts in life are to be found in creating community, despite differences. Screening with *Cairo 678* on May 20 and May 21.

What Would You Say?, directed by Damares Valencia (USA, 2009)

A film about making the most of what you say: A call to choose what really matters in life. Screening with *Natural Selection* on May 21 and May 25.

Women Empowerment, directed by various directors (South Africa, 2009)

Young South African filmmakers celebrate their mothers' resilience to overcome the obstacles that lay before them. Screening with *A Lot Like You* on May 24 and June 12.

* *Bold italics denotes local filmmaker.*

Launched in June 2006, Adobe Youth Voices is designed to provide youth in underserved communities with the critical skills needed to become active and engaged members of their communities and the world at large. With a focus on empowering youth, Adobe Youth Voices supports young people in and out of school and encourages the use of cutting-edge multimedia tools to communicate and share ideas, demonstrate potential, and take action where they live.

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About Adobe Youth Voices

Adobe Youth Voices (AYV) is the Adobe Foundation's global philanthropic initiative that empowers youth from underserved communities with digital media skills so they can comment on their world, share their ideas and take action on issues that are important to them. By harnessing the energy and insight of young people 13-19 years old, Adobe Youth Voices aims to inspire a dialogue for change in their communities. The program teaches youth to express themselves through documentary filmmaking, photography, print journalism, radio diaries, animation, Web communications, and other media. The Adobe Youth Voices global network now includes 500 sites, grantees, and organizations in 32 countries, engaging over 27,000 youth and 1,500 educators in schools and out-of-school programs. For more information, visit youthvoices.adobe.com.

About SIFF

Now in its 37th year, the Seattle International Film Festival is the largest and most highly-attended film festival in the United States, showcasing more than 400 films from over 70 countries to an audience of 155,000 attendees annually. In the fall of 2011 SIFF will open the SIFF Film Center at Seattle Center's Alki Room, thereby fulfilling its long-standing vision of creating a permanent home where SIFF's successful film, education, and community outreach programs can thrive.

The 37th Seattle International Film Festival is made possible in part by support from Xfinity, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Brotherton Cadillac Buick GMC, Alaska Airlines, Don Q Rums, The Wallace Foundation, Wong Doody, American Airlines, Modern Digital, POP, City Arts Magazine, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Warren Miller Company.