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Hardacre Film Fest Is Back for 2008

Eastern Iowa Film Festival Opens Call For Entries

The Hardacre Film & Cinema Festival (HFCE), now in its eleventh year of operation, is back after a successful rebirth in 2007. Scheduled for August 1-2, 2008 in Tipton, Iowa the festival screens independent film productions from across the country and overseas at the classical Hardacre Theater. The locally-owned art-deco theater has been in constant operation since 1917 and continues to show first-run movies daily.

"I'm really pumped about this," says Travis Alden, Festival Director and Tipton's Community Development Director. "How often do you see an event like this in a small Midwestern town of 3,200 people?" This will be Alden's second year at the helm of the festival, and this is also the second year that the event will be chiefly sponsored by the Tipton Chamber of Commerce. "You have to admire the Chamber Board for taking on a project like this. They realize that Tipton has a good thing going with the film festival and that it should continue." adds Alden.

The Hardacre began in 1996 as a project straight from the hearts of film lovers local to the Tipton area. Many are surprised to learn that it was the first independent competitive film festival in the state of Iowa. "Most people didn't even really know what a film festival was back then," notes Troy Peters, festival founder and former director. "I had one guy come up to me and ask, 'You mean this is gonna kind of be like that America's Funniest Home Videos?' I tried to explain it was nothing like that but the man walked away, still confused by my explanation."

Last year the Hardacre attracted nearly 200 entries from around the world, including New Zealand, Chile, Ghana, and Australia. "Last year we had some phenomenal Iowa-based entries, and we're looking forward to the same this year." says Alden. "We hope to screen more films from Iowa filmmakers in 2008, which is why we're offering discounts for Iowa entries."

Like in 2007, Hardacre offers a discounted entry fee for films produced in Iowa or by Iowans. In addition, entry fees for Iowa films will be waived completely from January 7th through the 18th, in an effort to jumpstart this year's call for entries.

Last year's festival received extensive coverage in regional media such as the Iowa City Press-Citizen, the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Quad City Times, Television in Cedar Rapids and Davenport and editorial coverage in MovieMaker Magazine, the most widely-read magazine on independent film in the world. Many filmmakers attended the festival, including Los Angeles-based director/producer Neil Mandt whose film *Last Stop for Paul* won Hardacre's "best feature" award. "It was a unique opportunity to have the movie screened by an audience in the middle of America." says Mandt.

Eric Scholl, a Chicago-based filmmaker whose cajun-music documentary *It's In The Blood* screened at Hardacre, also attended the 2007 festival. "I love small-town film festivals. They tend to be much more interesting and eclectic in their choices, and they tend to have extremely engaged audiences, which was very much the case at Hardacre."

A new festival website was launched on January 1st, and Hardacre also accepts entries online through WithoutABox.com. For more information and to submit your film please visit www.hardacrefilmfestival.com.