

Is That Milk Coming Out Of Your Nose? Or Are You Just Glad To See The...

6th Annual

THE WORLD OF COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL

February 27 – March 1, 2009

Town Hall Theatre at Innis College – 2 Sussex Ave

Tickets available only at the door - \$10 (Seniors \$8)

Phone: 416- 487-7574

www.worldcomedyfilmfest.com

(Toronto - February 17, 2009) Woody Allen may not do Oscar-winning comedies anymore. But we do!

With one Oscar win and two nominations in its brief, starry programme history, The World of Comedy Film Festival is back with its sixth annual fiesta of comedy films from Canada and around the world.

Prepare to laugh yourself silly at Innis College's Town Hall Theatre, where screenings will run from Friday February 27 through Sunday March 1.

A viral success in both the comedy and film worlds, this year, The World Of Comedy Fest attracted more than 500 submissions, an unprecedented number that was winnowed down to 77 reels of pure gold. It's an eclectic mix of shorts, animation, featurettes and features - with 20 World Premieres, 22 Canadian Premieres and eight North American Premieres.

Object proof that comedy is a universal language, these titles come to us from across the globe – UK, Australia, Belgium, France, Israel, Bulgaria, Germany, USA and Canada.

The World of Comedy Film Festival is also a great opportunity for emerging talent to hone their craft by attending the Professional Development Series - *"(funny) Business. It's All about the Biz: Selling, Pitching and Financing"* where participants meet the decision makers and leading professionals including Movieola – The Short Film Channel, Del M Productions Inc., SpaFax and Ouat Media.

Back by popular demand is *"Film 101: Back to Basics or Things They Didn't Teach you at Film School"* - the WFFF version of 'speed dating'. Industry mavens provide emerging filmmakers with an invaluable grab-bag of information every filmmaker should consider before making their films including: post-production, festival strategies, legal and financial issues, publicity and anecdotes from filmmakers.

Highly anticipated entries in this year's line-up include:

"Stan Maynard's Best Day Ever", a World Premiere by Canadian filmmaker, David Tamkin (in attendance). This 32 minute short peeks into the life of mild-mannered nebbish Stan Maynard whose entire fabric of life is dramatically altered with the help of a "Lifestylist."

"Skate Date" a World Premiere by Canadian filmmaker Richard Meaney (in attendance). Just a little over 11 minutes, this funny tale follows Tim, who has a once in a lifetime skating date chance with the girl of his dreams. He can't skate, and the date is in 2 days.

"3 Days Blind" a World Premiere by American filmmaker Clete Keith.(Executive Producer Arthur Bergel will be in attendance.) CAMERON has arranged a surprise party for his father's 75th birthday, but a late-night telephone call from the police changes the weekend plans, and what was intended as a celebration, soon uncovers the bizarre behavior of this group of misfits. This three-day weekend exposes everything a "family" has to offer: love, loss, pain, happiness, betrayal, and most of all... truth.

"Israeli Intelligence" director Alon Gur Arye (in attendance) brings this 45 minute hit from Israel, making it the North American Premiere. You're going to have to see it to believe it and we're letting you know with good humoristic intentions – no one is safe.

"Surprise" by France's Fabrice Maruca. This is 18 minutes of pure pleasure as we watch Pierre, an attentive husband prepare

a surprise for his wife Brigitte's birthday. A series of harmless incidents intertwine into absurdity.

"Felix Melman" by filmmaker Dan Lantz. Felix Melman is a human doormat whose life hasn't turned out quite the way he would have liked. He's divorced, failing at his job and with the ladies. Today, he just wants to get home a little early to pick up his kid. Fate, however, has other plans for Felix Melman. This is a Canadian Premiere.

"La Aventura De Rosa" from Spain's director Angela Armero. A young girl, Rosa, finds a book and discovers she's the main character in a story which will lead her to take choices about her own life. North American Premiere.

"What Blows Up Must Come Down!" by American Adam Dubin (in attendance). An animated short satirizing Arab/Israeli relations featuring the voices of comedians Jackie Mason, Lewis Black, Greg Giraldo and Nick Kroll.

part comedy part documentary, **"Certifiably Jonathan"** (Canadian Premiere) comic icon and talented artist Jonathan Winters, struggles to regain his sense of humour so that he can complete his paintings in time for his big opening at the Museum of Modern Art - everyone from Robin Williams to Sarah Silverman get involved. Cameo appearances include Rob Reiner, Nora Dunn, Patricia Arquette and Jeffrey Tambor.

"Bathtime", "Wash Day", "off the baa", and "At Home with Pip and Pog" four new shorts from Oscar winning Aardman Animations (Wallace and Gromit).

"Santa: The Fascist Years" the most recent creation from the warped mind of Oscar nominated animator Bill Plympton ("The Guard Dog").

Launched in 2003 by Carla Nolan, The World of Comedy Film Festival has screened more than 220 comedy shorts and features - including the Canadian premiere of the Australian animation hit Harvie Krumpet, which went on to win the 2004 Academy Award for "Best Animation Short", the 2005 Academy Award nominee The Guard Dog and 2006 nominee Our Time is Up.

The World of Comedy Film Festival is a non-profit organization created to celebrate the artistry and power of comedy films.

All festival information including the complete film programme is available online www.worldcomedyfilmfest.com.

About Carla Nolan: Founder and Director, The World of Comedy Film Festival

Upon graduating from the University of Alberta, Carla successfully produced and directed numerous plays and also taught drama. She pursued her studies and practical work in New York and in the UK. Returning to Canada, she honed her skills as an Arts Administrator in the Performing Arts branch of the Alberta Government and was editor of a province wide theatre newspaper. Always an avid movie goer, Carla got her first taste of actual film production as one of the founders of the first women's film and video cooperative in Edmonton.

After a move to Toronto, Carla was one of the first people to join the team at YTV Canada Inc., Canada's premiere children's channel. A decade spent in the production department, Carla worked on Gemini nominated programs and was an in-house Producer on a variety of daily and weekly television magazine programs and live specials.

She has produced two short independent films "The Red Clog" and the sci-fi comedy "Roy" which aired on various networks and cable stations and is available on video as part of a science fiction compilation.

Carla combined her love of comedy and production expertise in television and live theatre and co-produced the 2004 Tim Sims Encouragement Fund Award show "Cream of Comedy" which was broadcast on The Comedy Network.

She started the World of Comedy Film Festival in 2003.

Carla has served on the juries of a number of film festivals including Sprockets Student Film Competition, National Screen Institute (NSI) Online Short Film Festival and the Student Shorts Film Festival.

Her involvement with arts related organizations include: many years as an active member and Board Member of Women in Film & Television - Toronto (WIFT-Toronto), mentor for Power Flash Forward, former member and chairperson of the Advisory Committee for the Humber College School of Performing Arts and advising for various film festivals.