



News

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Work of 14 women directors to be showcased at chashama Film Festival 2011

Small but dedicated, cFF recognizes talent that Hollywood overlooks

New York City/October 2011: The films of 14 women directors are among the 33 productions selected this year for presentation at chashama Film Festival, a four-day event that features outstanding work culled from more than 300 submissions made by artists from around the globe. A platform for filmmakers to examine worldwide social issues, the free, non-profit festival runs Thursday, November 10th to Sunday, November 13th at the flagship chashama theater at 217 East 42nd Street in Manhattan.

"cFF is a voice for all filmmakers, so our evaluations are based solely on the quality of the work," says cFF Founder and Artistic Director Rick Kariolic. "These directors' films speak for themselves. Every one impressed us with both evocative storytelling and the powerful messages they deliver."

For 2011, cFF invited artists to explore the theme "Chaos Theory: The Rise and Fall of Societies." These are the women directors and their films that will be screened at chashama Film Festival 2011:

- **Immaculada de la Calle**, El Sueno del Chamán (documentary-Spain)
- **Coleen Fitzgibbon**, L.E.S (Lower East Side) (documentary)
- **Inbal Gibrolter**, Latzuf (drama-Israel)
- **Valerie Jensen**, ShakeSPHERE: Romeo and Juliet (short documentary)
- **Megan Kargher**, Vox Populi, Methods of Manipulation (documentary)
- **Silvia Leindecker**, Crossing the American Crises (documentary)
- **Cara Mumford**, December 6 (documentary) # #
- **Diane Namm**, SaSa (short documentary-India)
- **Carole Poliquin**, The Bottom Line: Privatizing the World (documentary)
- **Dr. Penelope Price**, Afghanistan: Between Light and Darkness (documentary)
- **Barbara Safarova**, Break the Spell (music video)
- **Kim Sheridan**, What's Up? (documentary)
- **Eva Theodoridou**, Living City (fantasy-Greece)
- **Abigail Zealey Bess**, Here's What I Like: Fashion and Flowers. And Now I'll Tell You Why (comedy)

To learn more about chashama Film Festival 2011, see the complete screening schedule and details about all the films, and reserve free seats for the event, visit www.chafilmfest.com or Eventbrite.

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Distinguished jurors selected for chashama Film Festival

Richard P. Rubinstein and Tony Torn will review selected work for awards

New York City/October 2011: Noted producer Richard P. Rubinstein and respected actor/director Tony Torn will be jurors for the fourth annual chashama Film Festival this year. The non-profit event, which is free and runs Thursday, November 10th to Sunday, November 13th at the flagship chashama theater at 217 East 42nd Street in Manhattan, has become a respected platform for artists to examine worldwide social issues.

"We're excited to have Richard and Tony as jurors for this year's slate of intriguing work," says cFF Founder and Artistic Director Rick Kariolic. "With their unique insights and broad knowledge of film, they'll contribute the nuanced perspective that cFF artists and audiences value."

After reviewing more than 300 submissions from around the world, cFF selected 33 outstanding productions, including documentaries, shorts, and features, for Mr. Rubinstein and Mr. Torn to critique prior to the films' screening at cFF. The work explores the theme "Chaos Theory: The Rise and Fall of Societies." The winning filmmaker will be provided with resources to produce a film upstate.

Mr. Rubinstein is currently "chief cook and bottle washer" at New Amsterdam Entertainment. He has been profitably blending art and commerce as a New York City-based producer of feature films, miniseries and syndicated TV series since 1973. Along the way, he took his prior production company public and at various times was a subsidiary of Spelling Entertainment, Blockbuster, and Viacom. Mr. Rubinstein holds an MBA from Columbia University and is known for his willingness to give new directors, writers and actors a chance to prove themselves.

Mr. Torn is an actor and director based in New York City and North Carolina. His feature film Lucky Days (co-directed by and starring his sister Angelica) won Best Feature at The Coney Island Film Festival. His experimental web satire Newsdate: Apocalypse (aka The Grand Inquisitor) played at chashama film festival and was featured by Adobe Software at the SXSW Festival. His short film The Left-Handed Way won multiple awards, including Best Story at The 48 Hour Film Project: Asheville. The founding director of Reverend Billy and The Church of Stop Shopping, he maintains close ties with the troupe. As an actor, he's known for his extensive work with legendary experimental theater artists Reza Abdoh and Richard Foreman. He has regularly appeared at Classic Stage Company, Brooklyn Academy of Music, PS 122, HERE Arts Center, The Ohio Theater, and The Public Theater. Recently, he launched PRESENCE, a series of innovative workshops for working actors at The Geraldine Page Salon.

To learn more about chashama Film Festival, please visit www.chafilmfest.com.

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chashama Film Festival 2011 gearing up for jurors to select films for presentation

"Small festival for a big city" features outstanding work by international artists

New York City/September 2011: In preparation for the November 2011 debut of thought-provoking films by exciting artists from around the globe, the fourth annual chashama Film Festival (cFF) team is completing its initial round of reviews of the more than 300 productions being considered for screening at the event. Invited to explore this year's festival theme, "Chaos Theory: The Rise and Fall of Societies," filmmakers representing more than 100 countries—including Mozambique, Denmark, Australia, Egypt, Singapore, Tanzania, Brazil, Serbia, and Norway—submitted a variety of formats, ranging from documentary and short narrative to experimental work and feature-length film.

The non-profit festival, which is free to attend and runs from Thursday, November 10th through Sunday November 13, 2011 at the flagship chashama theater, 217 East 42nd Street, has become a respected platform for artists to examine worldwide social issues through the medium of film.

"We're not just a venue for objectively judging movies after they're complete," says cFF Founder and Artistic Director Rick Kariolic. "We're committed to guiding artists in realizing their vision and continuing to fine-tune their work."

The winning filmmaker will be provided with the resources to produce a short film in scenic upstate New York. A distinguished panel of jurors, which is expected to include respected film school instructors and industry professionals, will select the 15 films to be screened at the festival.

To engage an even wider audience in its fourth year of operation, cFF has expanded its website to include a substantive blog that discusses films addressing the festival theme. Subscribers also receive a new bi-weekly e-newsletter that offers both fans and filmmakers updates on the event, interviews with industry professionals, entertaining "man on the street" queries, and film clips.

To learn more about chashama Film Festival, please visit www.chafilmfest.com.

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Facts about chashama Film Festival

<http://www.chafilmfest.com/2011/>

- chashama Film Festival, "a small festival in a big city," was created in 2008 by Rick Kariolic, Founder and Artistic Director.
- Its mission is to form a community of independent filmmakers, writers, musicians, and fans to share ideas, network, and help each other navigate their way in a difficult industry.
- cFF also invites filmmaker to express their views on social, cultural, and political issues, based on a thought-provoking new theme each year. For 2011, festival submissions explore "Chaos Theory: The Rise and Fall of Societies."
- The 2011 cFF will take place Thursday, November 10th through Sunday, November 13th, at the chashama Flagship Space, 217 East 42nd Street, Manhattan, with an opening night reception on Thursday evening.
- cFF is a non-profit venture; admission to the event is free.
- cFF gives special consideration to low-budget films, as well as work that may not typically be invited to screen before audiences.
- More than 300 productions were submitted this year by artists representing more than 100 countries, including Mozambique, Denmark, Australia, Egypt, Singapore, Tanzania, Brazil, Serbia, and Norway. All explore this year's theme through such formats as documentary, short narrative, experimental work, music video, and feature. Of the 33 films selected in 2011, 14 were directed by women.
- The winning filmmaker is provided with the resources to produce a short film in scenic upstate New York.
- cFF is partnered with chashama, a non-profit organization that connects artists in New York City with untapped reserves of vacant real estate, such as empty storefronts and offices languishing between tenants, which also invigorates the surrounding community with creative activity.
- Rick Kariolic is an international artist, filmmaker, actor, and photographer who now works as a fashion model as well, after being discovered in a cafe.
- Also a consultant to other artists and a mentor to aspiring student filmmakers, Rick is currently directing and producing a documentary on the fascinating history of 42nd Street in New York City.
- Contact cFF at pr@chafilmfest.com or (718) 908-6123.

About the 2011 chashama Film Festival

chashama Film Festival is a free, non-profit cinematic arts event unique for highlighting international productions that explore thought-provoking themes of social change. Partnered with the non-profit arts organization chashama, cFF cultivates a community of filmmakers who share their vision, network, and help each other navigate through a difficult industry.

Now in its fourth year, cFF invited filmmakers to address the theme "Chaos Theory: The Rise and Fall of Societies." The artists examine how pervasive social, political, and economic instability here and abroad affects individual communities. Our distinguished panel of jurors select among documentaries, feature-length films, experimental works, animation, and other productions that provide compelling insight into the theme. The festival is an opportunity for film lovers and artists to gather, view this distinctive body of work, and share their thoughts.

At cFF, film is the medium to communicate an artist's viewpoint. Because cFF believes New Yorkers have a unique responsibility to inform the international community, the festival seeks to be a model for progressive thought and convey genuine feelings, questions, and ideas.

About Rick Kariolic, cff Founder and Artistic Director

Since he created chashama Film Festival in 2008, international artist and filmmaker Rick Kariolic has directed two feature documentaries and two short comedy films, and is now producing the feature-length film "A Bob Marley Joint." He is also directing and producing a documentary on the fascinating history of 42nd Street in New York City. A consultant to other filmmakers and mentor to aspiring student artists, the multi-disciplined Rick received a space grant in 2006 from the chashama arts group for his exhibition of "Paint and Shoot." His photographic exhibit, "Europe," was shown at the chashama Black Box. Internationally, his works were featured at the BE HERE Festival in the former Yugoslavia, and at performance venues in Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia in 2004.

Born on Chicago's South Side, Rick spent most of his youth watching movies and dreaming of making his own. As a result, he broke his father's camera a few times trying to get the perfect shot. His deep passion for his craft inspired him to pursue a career in filmmaking despite his lack of a formal arts education. In his journey to make his own festival flourish and best serve the artists showcasing their work there, Rick has attended several prestigious film festivals on the circuit, including Cannes, New York, Sundance, Denver, Hamptons, and Tribeca. His experience has guided him in developing cFF into a unique outlet for filmmakers to explore international sociological issues.

About chashama arts group

Founded by Anita Durst in 1995, chashama is an organization dedicated to serving artists in New York City. Anita realized that lack of affordable space was the greatest threat to a diverse, dynamic, and provocative cultural environment in New York. Her vision was to connect artists with untapped reserves of vacant real estate, such as empty storefronts and offices languishing between tenants, while invigorating surrounding communities with creative activity. Since its inception, chashama has provided opportunities for performing and visual artists by awarding grants, producing shows, and providing subsidized studio, rehearsal, and performance space. chashama has transformed more than 40 locations, giving 7,500 artists access to space well below market rate, which supported about 10,000 public presentations for more than 500,000 viewers.