

Chashama FILM FESTIVAL 2008

MAY 30TH – JUNE 1ST 2008

217 EAST 42ND STREET | NYC

FILMS THAT OTHER FESTIVALS ARE AFRAID TO SHOW.

Chashama burst on to the art scene over a decade ago with provocative window performances that dazzled pedestrians amid the skyscrapers of Midtown Manhattan. Now, in the year of the rat, chashama enters new territory with the 1st annual **chashama Film Festival**. cFF '08 wants to bring back that edge that once branded New York City as a hub of provocation, the place where daring ideas could flourish. Chashama Film Festival is a visual vehicle for original thoughts of filmmakers from around the globe. cFF celebrates films that other festivals are afraid to show.

• C F F O 8 •

Schedule of Events:

Opening Night Reception | May 29th | 6pm – 9pm | RSVP online

- Catered by Brazil Brazil, art installation by local artist celso, introduction by Festival Director Rick Kariolic, filmmaker presentations, raffle.

Screenings | May 30th, May 31st, June 1st | full schedule at www.chafilmfest.com

- Daily Screenings | FRIDAY: 12pm, 2:30pm, 5pm, 7:30pm, 10pm
| SATURDAY: 12pm, 2:45pm, 6pm, 8:30pm, 11:30pm
| SUNDAY: 12pm, 3:45pm, 6pm, 8:30pm
- Awards Ceremony & Closing Reception | SUNDAY 8:30pm

Tickets for Screenings available online

- Tickets can be purchased before the event for \$5 per screening, and \$30 for a weekend festival pass.
- At the door, tickets will be \$8 per screening & \$35 for the weekend pass.

WWW.CHAFILMFEST.COM

212.969.9267



CONTACT INFO:

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chashama Film Festival 2008 Screening Location
217 East 42nd St.
New York, New York 10017

WWW.CHAFILMFEST.COM

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(New York, NY—May 20, 2008) Chashama burst on to the art scene over a decade ago with provocative window performances, dazzling pedestrians amid the skyscrapers of Midtown Manhattan. Now, in the year of the rat, chashama enters new territory with the first annual chashama Film Festival. cFF '08 will celebrate films that other festivals are too afraid to show, aiming to bring together filmmakers from all areas of the globe by promoting their original work to audiences in New York City.

The chashama Film Festival will take place from May 30th to June 1st 2008 at the flagship chashama theater space, located at 217 East 42nd Street. There will be screenings Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 11pm. There will be a public opening night reception on Thursday, May 29th at 6pm. Tickets for screenings may be reserved online for a price of \$5 per show, or \$30 for a festival pass. Tickets will also be available at the door, for a price of \$8 per show or \$35 for the pass. The complete screening schedule is listed at www.chafilmfest.com.

International artist and filmmaker Richard Kariolic will serve as the Director of chashama Film Festival. The panel of festival judges consists of Dimitris Athos, Sylvia Caminer, Marc Dale, James Janowsky, and Lisa Regina.

About Rick Kariolic, Festival Director

Born in Chicago's South Side, Rick Kariolic spent most his time watching movies and dreaming of making his own. Growing up, he often broke his father's camera in trying to get the impossible shot. Despite a humble background and lack of formal artistic education, his deep passion led him to pursue a career in the creative and performing arts.

In 2002, Rick moved to NYC and connected with an improvisation group that performed around the city. Without delay, Rick pitched a screenplay to the group, and had made his first big-city film. Since then, he has directed and produced many films, ranging from experimental to feature-length documentary. Rick is a multidisciplinary filmmaker whose mixed media format is inspired by the collective spirit of family. His imagery focuses on life situations, including the birth of a child or the rescue of a friend, never turning off his humanity or the camera to share in "real time" moments and events through film and photography.

In 2003 Rick's photography exhibition "Europe" was shown at the lobby gallery of 135 West 42nd Street. In 2004 his multidisciplinary works were featured at the BE HERE Festival in the former

Yugoslavia at performance venues in Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. In 2006 Rick received a space grant from chashama for his multi-disciplinary exhibition of “paint and shoot”. Rick’s new feature “The Picture” is currently in post-production.

About Randi Pannell, Festival Associate Director

Randi Pannell is the Founder and President of Sagital Works; a networking home for filmmakers, writers and artists seeking production and/or development. Her producing, directing and acting credits are extensive, and Randi is a member of SAG.

About chashama

Chashama was founded by Anita Durst in 1995 as an organization dedicated to serving artists in New York City. Durst realized that lack of affordable space was the greatest threat to diverse, dynamic, and provocative cultural environment in NYC. Durst’s vision was to connect artists with untapped reserves of vacant real estate: empty storefronts and offices languishing between tenants.

Chashama has formed relationships with some of NYC’s largest developers and property owners and shown them that allowing artists to use temporarily vacant spaces adds value to properties by preventing neglect and decay, while invigorating surrounding communities with creative activity.

Landlords’ donations enable chashama to offer space to artists for free or at rates at a fraction of market values. Currently, chashama operates fifteen venues that include a fully equipped theater, two galleries, four rehearsal studios, seventy-three artists’ studios, and three storefronts window stages. For the past thirteen years, chashama has achieved it’s mission of providing opportunities to over 6,500 artists: space to paint, sculpt, rehearse, perform; cash grants for fees and materials; marketing and audience development for their performances and exhibitions.