



13 Finalists Named in Annual Short Film Competition

Vancouver (Feb. 1, 2011) – Crazy8s, Vancouver’s premier short film event, is back, with 13 finalists moving on to the final round of the competition. The finalists now get the opportunity to work with professional story editors to hone their stories. On Feb. 28, based on the strength of their final scripts, six winners will be selected to receive a package of support worth tens of thousands of dollars, including everything they need to make their short film in just eight days of frenzied creativity. The finished films will premier at a gala screening at the Vogue Theatre on April 9.

This year’s competition began in December, when 120 aspiring filmmakers signed up to submit a video pitch of their short film idea. 42 semi-finalists were then selected to pitch their projects in-person to a jury of industry professionals on Jan. 28 and 29.

"I was very impressed with the improved quality of pitches this year. The jury had a difficult time choosing. Vancouver filmmakers are really stepping up to the plate!" said Crazy8s Producer Erik Paulsson. "Over the past 12 years Crazy8s has helped launch the careers of some of Vancouver’s most talented filmmakers, and we are excited to see the next generation coming up."

"One of the most important goals of Crazy8s is to increase the training and competency of the filmmakers in BC," said Crazy8s Producer Marc Stephenson. "While we can only choose 6 projects to go into production, the dozens of filmmakers who participate in our pitch workshop and go through the pitching process learn a great deal which will help them throughout their careers."

The jury, comprised of Sue Biely (media consultant and former shorts programmer for CBC’s ZeD,) Dylan Akio-Smith (Crazy8s Alumni and winner of Best Short Film at the Toronto International Film Festival for "Man Feel Pain") Kat Montagu (award-winning screenwriter, story editor and VFS instructor) and Craig Takeuchi (film critic and movie editor for the Georgia Straight), saw an incredible diversity of funny, zany, moving and original stories presented over two days; some pitchers came armed with props and graphics, others brought in performers decked out in costume.

"There were some fantastic, original concepts being pitched this year," said Crazy8s Producer Marc Stephenson. "We’ve always seen lots of comedies pitched, but in the past few years there has been a much broader representations of genres – from hard Drama to Science Fiction and Horror. It’s great to see the diversity of the stories being told by Vancouver filmmakers. We are looking forward to another strong crop of Crazy8s films this year."

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Crazy8s 2011 Finalist Teams & Projects

Alchemy – Zachary Rothman (writer/director), Heather Lindsay (producer)

A Man and a Woman are so wrapped up in their crumbling marriage they fail to notice that outside, the World is Ending.

Boarding Mrs. Marcowitz – Shaun McKinlay (director), Julie Stangeland (writer)

Two adult children gain a fresh perspective on their childhood when forced to care for their aging mother in the early stages of Alzheimer's.

Dead Friends – Stephen Martin (writer/director)

9-year old Lola's only friend is her stuffed rabbit, until the human ear she finds and plants in the earth grows into her new best friend.

The False Tooth Fairy – Erick Boychuk (director), Brad Huffman-Parent (writer)

A father is convinced to dress up as the tooth fairy to surprise his little girl when she loses her first tooth, but everything that can go wrong, does.

Funny Business – Russell Bennett (director), Andrew Templeton (writer)

Worried about his problem with premature ejaculation, a man discovers he can bring his lover to orgasm by making her laugh. All is well, until he starts running short on jokes...

Learning to Walk – Mackenzie Gray (director), Katherine Hill (writer)

On the day of the wedding, a 30-something woman and the late 20s, Rwandese woman soon to become her step-mom are forced to confront the awkwardness between them.

Helping Hands – Nathan Boey (director), Joe Klymkiw (producer)

A traffic cop dreams of using his skills for more, but hand modeling school introduces him to a world more fiercely competitive than he ever imagined.

Noodle Soup – Jessica Moorehouse (writer/director)

Frustrated job-seeker Darla discovers she can make a living answering the often strange requests in the personal ads, but just how far is she willing to go?

The Phone – Bruce Spangler (director), Mark Schroeder (writer)

Big Ivan has lost his phone, and he's horrified to discover that not only has it rebranded itself as iVan, it's also taking over his identity and doing much better without him!

No Right Choice – Rehan Khokhar (writer/director) & Cole Hewlett (producer)

12 year old Peter's teacher becomes concerned about his monthly absences. When he makes a home visit to investigate, he discovers Peter and his father's terrible secret.

Run Dry – Sarah Crauder (director), Jordan Hall (writer)

In a future Vancouver running out of water, a young woman has to decide what price is too high for black-market papers that would let her escape with her boyfriend.

Sparkle Bunny – Matthew Kowalchuk (director), Sara Bynoe (writer)

Sparkle Bunny is a candy raver - the last of her tribe. Then an encounter with an ex-raver friend makes her question herself and the drum-and-bass beat she marches to.

Who Says? – John R. Taylor (writer/director)

Three lives intersect on a public bus – a skateboarder, an elderly man and a young blind man – and as a connection unfolds we are invited to question our judgments and assumptions.