



CRAZY8s ANNOUNCES 12 SEMI-FINALISTS

Vancouver (Feb. 3, 2010) – 12 semi-finalists are now furiously polishing their scripts as they head into the story edit phase of this year's Crazy8s, Vancouver's premier short film event. On Feb. 18, based on the strength of their final scripts, six will be selected to receive a package of support including everything they need to make their short film over eight days of frenzied creativity in late March. The finished films will then premier to a packed audience at a gala screening at the Vogue Theatre on March 27.

The twelve semi-finalists were selected from a short-list of 40 teams that pitched their projects in-person to a jury of industry professionals on Jan. 29 and 30. The short-listed teams got the opportunity to try to convince the jury they had an entertaining, fresh and compelling story to tell after submitting a 5-minute video pitch, a new addition this year to the Crazy8s selection process.

"We introduced the video pitches this year to open the competition up to wider participation, and we couldn't have been more thrilled with the results," says event producer **Marc Stephenson**. *"115 teams registered to submit a video pitch, which meant that this year almost twice as many teams as in past years were able to participate. Many of the filmmakers also told me the process got their creative juices flowing, and helped them to hone their film concept. Even those not selected as semi-finalists had a very valuable learning experience through the pitch process."*

The jury, comprised of Louise Clark (former VP of program development for CTV, responsible for such series as Corner Gas and Robson Arms), 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") and Peg Campbell (award-winning filmmaker and Emily Carr professor), saw an incredible diversity of funny, zany, moving and original stories presented over two days; some pitchers came armed with props and graphics, others even brought in performers decked out in costume.

"The pitches were extremely strong this year, which we can attribute to our addition of a pitch workshop and the introduction of the video pitch element," says event producer **Erik Paulsson**. *"The jury had a tough decision, but in the end chose 12 excellent films to move forward, from both emerging talent and veterans such as Elizabeth Yake (producer, "It's All Gone Pete Tong") and Bruce Spangler ("Protection"). I am very excited about this year's batch of films."*

For the announcement of the twelve semi-finalists, please see the first Crazy8s 2010 podcast at <http://www.crazy8s.cc/>, also available for download through iTunes.

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For more information, contact:
Diana Wilson
604-258-4030
diana@artemisdreams.com

Crazy8s 2010 Semi Finalist Teams and Projects

Cat Vs Man – a zany comedy about an out-of-work writer who battles his girlfriend's cat, Mr. Waffles, for her affections.

Writer/Director: Zia Marashi

Domestic Dreams – the quirky story of a 1950's housewife who visits the Dream Dump to reconnect with her dreams once she realizes she's beginning to fade away - literally.

Director: Tyler Funk, Writers: Laura Hope/Tyler Funk, Producer: Alisen Hunt

Exit – a poignant meditation on the isolation of modern living and the importance of stuff in our lives; when the fire alarm goes off, a group of previously unconnected residents have only moments to decide what to save.

Director: Vince Arvidson, Writer: Emmanuelle Rousseau

Future Dick – a time travel comedy in which Richard is visited by his future self, a sponging loafer looking to relive the best days of his life, and steal his own girlfriend.

Directors: James Tichenor/Jonathan MacPherson, Writers: Damonde Tschritter/James Tichenor/Jonathan MacPherson

Sad Bear – the charming and surreal tale of Sad Bear, who travels the world taking away people's saddest belongings. Then Sad Bear meets Steve, who doesn't want to relinquish his crocodile boots.

Director: Liz Cairns, Writer: Joe Lo Bianco, Production Designer: Taran Chadha

Sikat – the moving story of a Filipino immigrant who's spent 7 years caring for another woman's children while waiting for her own son and husband to join her in Canada.

Writer/Director: Angelina L. Cantada

Stupid Chainsaw Tricks – an off-beat comedy about bored, suburban husbands Karl and Ted who discover the possibility of earning their immortality... through chainsaws.

Director: Kellie Ann Benz, Writer: Kris Elgstrand, Producer: Christopher Shyer

The Education of Wendy Wisconsin – a musical satire about tween sit-com heroine Wendy Wisconsin, who begins to question the inanity of her formulaic existence.

Writer/Director: Dwight Hartnett, Producer: Patrick Sayer

The Pre-coital – a satirical look at celebrity, sex and technology; when sparks fly between Hollywood mega-stars Viva and Nix, their lawyers step in to negotiate terms.

Writer/Director: Bruce Spangler

The Spy Who Changed Me – a campy send-up of the genre; when enterprising single mom/secret agent Sarah gets the call for an urgent mission, she has to work around her child-care challenges to retrieve the stolen microchips.

Director: Murielle Fréoa, Writers: Tod McCoy/ Murielle Fréoa

Tunnel – an absurdist drama about Esther, who wakes to discover a dirt-covered man in pajamas on her front lawn, and the desperate measures she resorts to when he will neither leave nor explain his presence.

Co-Directors: Arianna McGregor/Sara Dickhout Writer: Arianna McGregor

Up Yours – a mockumentary about the absurdity of air travel in the age of terrorism, in which anal probing may just be the answer to the world's problems up in the air.

Director: Elizabeth Yake, Writer: Mark Davidson, Producer: Connie Dolphin