



10th Year Anniversary

PITCH SLOTS FILL IN RECORD TIME

Vancouver, BC: Canada's number one short film event, **Crazy8s**, lived up to its name yesterday as 60 available pitch slots - opened up on a "first come, first served" basis yesterday - were filled by a horde of ambitious filmmakers. "A record time", according to 10th Anniversary Event Producer Erik Paulsson, who saw every slot filled by the 10 a.m. competition kickoff.

"When we arrived at the CFTPA offices at 9am, there were already more than 40 people lined up in advance of the 10am opening. The 60th person arrived at 9:45am, so we had filled our pitch slots before we started accepting applications!", said Paulsson. "This year we added pitch slots for filmmakers in Victoria. We teamed up with the CineVic Society of Independent Filmmakers, who agreed to take Vancouver Island applications," In the end there were three pitch applicants from Vancouver Island filmmakers, two who signed up at the CineVic offices in Victoria at 10am, and one who made the trek to Vancouver and lined up at 8am.

"The response was spectacular, and underscores the creative appetite for this kind of film event where BC's emerging filmmakers can tap into a process that hones their script with professional story editors, then arms them with \$800 cash, 60 minutes of digital tape stock, and tens of thousands of dollars worth of film industry support to make their debut before a packed theatre of their peers, and future employers."

The next step for these successful filmmakers is to "sell" their story to a jury of industry professionals on March 20th and 21st. Then 10 teams will emerge from the first cut to be paired with a professional story editor to craft their script before re-presenting to the jury. Of the 10 teams, 6 will move forward into production and post production April 16th to 23rd, and their finished films will be unveiled at a gala screening at the Vogue Theatre Saturday April 25th.

2009 marks the 10th Anniversary of **Crazy8s** and this year Erik Paulsson of Red Storm Productions, and producer of multiple award-winning films including ARMY OF ONE (Best Canadian Feature Documentary at Hot Docs) and the Sundance Jury-Prize winning film EVE & THE FIRE HORSE, is the event producer. Marc Stephenson (Producer of EDISON & LEO, ON THE CORNER) joins the team as Line Producer while former event Executive Producer Andrew Williamson stays on in a consulting role.

Crazy8s is supported by a wide-spectrum of Vancouver's entertainment industry and equips 6 filmmakers with cash, tape stock, professional tools, and then challenges them to create a screen-worthy short film in 8 days. **Crazy8s** short films have screened at over 150 film festivals worldwide, won numerous international and local awards, secured distribution deals and been broadcast across Canada. Recently the **Crazy8s** Library was acquired by Canadian distributor Quat! Media in Toronto, and Movieola, The Short Film Channel.

Crazy8s 2009 is sponsored by BC Film, CBC, ACFC West, IATSE 891, BC Producers Branch-CFTPA, the Director's Guild of Canada, UBCP, and Heenan Blaikie. For more information about Crazy8s log onto: www.crazy8s.cc.

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Media, please contact:

Leri Davies, e-mail: leridavies@shaw.ca