



Press Kit - 2007

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BACKSEAT FILM FESTIVAL -- Press Kit -- 2007

ABOUT

Now in its FIFTH year, the Backseat Film Festival is a rock 'n roll film fest devoted to the best in edgy, unpretentious movies from all over the cinematic globe. An electrifying mix of zany short films, sleazy music videos, unrelenting documentaries and some of the most exciting feature film premieres around, the Backseat Film Festival is a showcase for movies that embody the youthful, exhilarating spirit of rock 'n roll. No postmodern irony or heavy-handed political statements here, just a lot of zombies, hot chicks, bad jokes and great music.

The Backseat Film Festival is a showcase for films of all genres, formats and lengths, but it spotlights quality work that may otherwise go unseen by the general public.

MISSION

To find good movies.

To find venues friendly to good movies.

To find the audience that wants to see good movies.

To work it out so you can drink while watching these great movies!

We believe that films are meant to be watched and enjoyed. Filmmakers don't put their hearts and souls into their movies just to jerk themselves off. They make them for people to see. Likewise, people don't pay to see a movie so they can be preached at or so that some pretentious filmmaker can work out every emotional problem from his childhood. They go to see a good movie.

We believe that films should be good. Really good. Films should be exciting, funny, scary and sexy. They should turn you on. They should change your life for having seen them. They should make you glad to be alive. They should not be ordinary or boring.

We believe that moviegoers want variety in their options of films. Audiences are not idiots or children, but they have been treated as such by mainstream media makers. The local Cineplex or Blockbuster should not be your only option for watching movies.

We believe that a film's production budget, marketability and potential commercial appeal are not a reflection of its quality. A film of any size, shape or flavor can be a good film. And we believe all good films deserve a friendly venue and an attentive audience. We strive to provide that venue and to help seek that audience.

THE BEST VIEW IS FROM THE BACKSEAT!

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EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2007

The Backseat Film Festival is currently gearing up for a week-long series of screenings and parties in late January in and around its home city of Philadelphia. The festival will then also be taking the award winners and crowd favorites on the road to a few other cities, including Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Austin.

This year's festival is going to be bigger, better, and drunker than ever! Check back with our website to get all the latest news about programming, venues, sponsors and more.

PAST EVENTS

A Brief History

The Backseat Film Festival was founded as a traveling, ongoing film festival. Unlike many other film festivals, The Backseat Film Festival has held screenings at a variety of venues, including nightclubs, art spaces and of course traditional movie theaters. After kicking off with its inaugural festival by competing for audiences and press literally next to and during the larger, more established Sundance Film Festival 2003, screenings have been held throughout the year, across the United States. The Backseat Film Festival has even screened films directly out of its one-of-a-kind tour bus, the Dirty Erin.

To date, the Backseat Film Festival has hosted over fifty screenings in several cities, including Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York City, Los Angeles, Austin and Park City, UT. Thousands of enthusiastic film fans and dozens of talented filmmakers over the past three years have been a part of the Backseat Film Festival.

A full list of past screenings and pictures from past events are available on the festival website.

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FILMS

The best way to really understand what the Backseat Film Festival is all about is to get to know some of the great movies that have come through the festival. Our website has an ever expanding section with detailed information about many of the best of the festival, so check it out. Or, better yet, come out to a screening, have a drink, and see them for yourself.

Here are just a few of the fine selections that have graced the festival.

FEATURES

The most exciting and adventurous feature films around.

Prison-A-Go-Go, Acne, Harry Knuckles and the Pearl Necklace, Die You Zombie Bastards . .

SHORTS

Funny, sexy and stupid short films.

Rock 'n Roll Eulogy, Robot Bastard, Welcome to Queens, Creepees vs. Robot Monster #2 . .

MUSIC VIDEOS

The best in underground music videos for some great rock 'n roll bands.

Nashville Pussy, The Locust, Arab on Radar, Guitar Wolf, The Makers, Horrorpops . . .

SPONSORS

The Backseat Film Festival has always been possible because of the support of some really good folks. Some of our past sponsors are. . .

MySpace.com
Sailor Jerry Rum
Devilfish Ink
DiscMakers Media Duplication
Gray Kangaroo Personal Liquor Filters
Greater Philadelphia Film Office
Gyro Worldwide
Hot Rod Condoms
Modern Drunkard Magazine
Monster Energy Drinks
Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer
Philadelphia City Paper
Seatthole Shirts and Stickers
TLA Releasing

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STAFF

The founders of the Backseat Film Festival had worked with other production companies and even helped run another film festival before starting their own fest. They are filmmakers in their own right and they strive to create more opportunities for the public to experience the great rock 'n roll movies that are made every year by hard-working filmmakers.

ZAFER ÜLKÜCÜ – Festival Co-Director, Director of Programming

Zafer is a founding member of the Backseat Film Festival and also of the production company behind the festival, Backseat Conceptions. As head of programming, he is in charge making sure the festival actively seeks out the best in underexposed rock 'n roll movies. His discerning, if stubborn, tastes mean you can be damn sure that if it ends up at a BFF screening, then it's going to be a fun movie. A filmmaker with a variety of short and feature film credits, he recently co-wrote and co-produced the newest feature film in the wildly popular "Bikini Bandits" series to be released next year.

DOUG SAKMANN - Festival Co-Director , Director of Press/Public Relations

Doug is also a founding member of both the Backseat Film Festival and Backseat Conceptions. As the head of press and public outreach, he's the one who makes sure people hear about the festival and get their asses out to see some cool movies. His years of promotions and production experience have culminated in his pet project, the comedy/slasher/punk epic, "Punk Rock Holocaust". Already a bona-fide hit, the film's sequel will be released early next year.

MARK COLEGROVE – Technical Director, Baltimore Liaison

Mark is responsible for maintaining the Backseat Film Festival presence in its second home, the beautiful Baltimore, MD. An accomplished filmmaker and videographer, he recently shot and produced the soon-to-be-cult classic, "Pleasures of the Damned". Mark is also the guitarist for the rock outfit, Mudshark. And he has a projector we often use.

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PRESS

For any other press related questions, email Doug Sakmann at doug@backseatfilmfestival.com

Here's some stuff the press has said about us . . .

A-List

" . . . the Backseat Film Festival, which answers the question, If anyone with 10 bucks and a DV camera can make a movie, how are people who aren't these auteurs' drinking buddies ever see it?"

Matt Prigge, *Philadelphia Weekly*

Film Series Provides Escape from the Cineplex

"Looking for a getaway from mainstream family-friendly movies, overpriced tickets, screaming teenyboppers and the stale popcorn of the local movie theater? Head over to the Backseat Film Series . . . "

Christine Hansen, *The Towerlight*

Critic's choice

"We don't pull this card here at Baltimore's Most Business in Front, Party in Back Weekly, but tonight's Backseat Film Series screening . . . is an absolute must. No excuses. If you don't go, you miss out big time. We've discussed it in this space before, but it's worth repeating; the Backseat Film Festival shows movies in a bar. Ok? Is a diagram necessary?"

Baltimore City Paper

"For festival attendees that feel the Sundance scene is a little too stuffy for them, the Backseat Film Festival will be the place to go."

(On Backseat during Sundance 2003)

"Brace yourself for more edgy films and a fuck of a lot of partying."

(On Backseat 2004 Tour Announcement)

Chris Gore, *FilmThreat.com*

"Defiantly low-brow and proudly juvenile . . . counter-counter programming."

Salt Lake City Weekly

"What one will find in the Backseat is bizarre, surprising and definitely nothing like what was just in town for the Dallas Video Festival."

Shannon Sutlief, *Dallas Observer*

"The Backseat Festival's Indie Moviemakers Keep it Cheap, Short, and Real."

Lizzie Skurnick, *Baltimore City Paper*

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Links, banners and digital press kits available at:
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BACKSEAT CONCEPTIONS

Backseat Conceptions is the production company that runs and supports the festival by sharing much of its staff, office space and other resources. More information about Backseat Conceptions and its other projects can be found at its website, www.backseatconceptions.com.