



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cucalorus Film Festival Set for November 12 – 15, 2008**

***Historic Downtown Wilmington, NC is site for celebration of independent filmmaking***

(Wilmington, NC- 14 August 2008) – Mark your calendars! November 12- 15, 2008, are the dates for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Cucalorus Film Festival, North Carolina's provocative and daring celebration of independent film. For four days in the historic Port City, the festival will showcase over 140 films, including features, documentaries, experimental films, shorts and an extra dose of the unexpected. In addition to politically charged and technically groundbreaking works, the festival also focuses on Southern storytellers and their visions. Cucalorus will announce its official film selections on September 26, with the full festival schedule released on October 6. Early selections will be announced at the end of August, with press kits from each of these films available at that time.

Different in every way from the myriad of film festivals across the country, Cucalorus enjoys a reputation for its distinctly southern flair and non-competitive vibe. Cucalorus gives no awards, focusing instead on innovation, collaboration and socializing among filmmakers and film lovers alike. The Spring 2008 issue of MovieMaker

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magazine listed the Cucalorus Film Festival in the top “25 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee,” and highlighted Cucalorus for its supportive, laid back atmosphere, making it a true celebration of film.

New to Cucalorus is the Works-in-Progress program, which offers filmmakers who are in the final stages of editing an opportunity to showcase their films in a workshop style setting. The festival fosters dialogue between filmmaker and audience, thereby providing critical feedback for final editing decisions. This will be an invaluable opportunity for those hoping to eventually screen their finished film in notable festivals, such as Sundance and South By Southwest, to discuss their film with a captive audience.

Last year participant, Seth Wochensky, gave kudos to the festival by saying, “Cucalorus 13 was without a doubt the most positive film festival experience I have had and should be seen as a model for other festivals across the country.” Kristina Lear added, “I had a really terrific time, indeed it was one of my favorite experiences with the film so far... The films, the setting, the non-competition vibe -- all were very invigorating.”

The creative convergence breaks out of the traditional festival box with innovative programs like the opening night centerpiece “Dance-a-lorus.” This annual merging of filmmaking and dance has been an audience favorite for four years. Other annual oddities include a host of outstanding emcees, including festival spiritual guide Matt Malloy, the comedy duo/laughathon-making Superkiiids, and the sharp-shooting chair of the Cucalorus Board of Trustees Bo Webb. A Blue Velvet locations tour, a Saturday morning Kids! Fest, and the unspeakable legends of the night at Jengo’s Playhouse round out the curious offerings at this carnival of creativity.

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Screenings are a walkable distance from one another and downtown Wilmington's numerous B&B's, restaurants, hotels and the Cape Fear Riverwalk. Venues include Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts (310 Chestnut Street, 910-343-3664), both its main stage and black box theatres; Jengo's Playhouse (815 Princess Street, 910-343-5995), Wilmington's only micro-cinema. New to the venue list is UNCW's Lumina Theater (601 S. College Road, 910.962.3285).

Festival Passes are available now on the web at [www.cucalorus.org](http://www.cucalorus.org). Festival Passes (\$150) allow access to all screenings and social events. Screening Passes (\$75) cover all festival screenings. Individual tickets will be available in late October at the Thalian Box Office (910-343-3664) or on the web at [cucalorus.org](http://cucalorus.org) or [thalianhall.com](http://thalianhall.com). Press Pass applications will be available August 30; contact our office for a Press Pass application. Cucalorus Film Foundation members receive discounts on all festival passes. Memberships are available on the web or at Jengo's Playhouse, the CUCALORUS 14 Headquarters, 815 Princess Street, Wilmington, NC, 28401.

Stay tuned for more festival information, or call the numbers above if you just can't wait!

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