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SHORT FILM SHOWCASE: The event is gaining global attention in only its second year

Local, foreign films celebrated

Kathy Rumleski Sun Media

August 20, 2008

AUG. 23: In only its second year, the London Short Film Showcase has seen the world come calling.

The showcase, set for Saturday at Rainbow Cinemas, has drawn the interest of talents from as far away as Australia, Africa, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Films include Pea vs. Carrot, an awardwinning project by American filmmaker Ben Hicks, and Kivumvu: Basket Boy, a dramatic film made through a Burundi Film Centre pilot project.



"We have been very fortunate with the response we have had this year. We still give local films first dibs, but it is nice to be able to bring some great international films home to London," said Jason Clarke, the founder and board president of the showcase.

Local films include For Pete's Sake, a fun-



filled piece about prostitutes, hitchers, and pimps, directed by Sean Stanley with a cast comprised of Ben Potter, Leon Cox, Samir Mansur and Maggie Park. Bizography is a satire about a day in the life of eight-year-old whiz

kid James Johnson Jr. It's directed by Mark Potter and the cast includes Nathan Riviere, B.B. Johnson, Meghan Brown and Chris Burke.

Clarke said short films are an important part of the film industry.

"Almost every filmmaker has made a short film at some point. They're made in almost every genre imaginable and tend to be very creative."

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This year, 35 per cent of the profits will go to the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, with the remaining funds given to filmmakers.

The event includes a networking evening on Friday at The Arts Project and a closing night gala where the four top films will be screened again, as well as the film selected as the people's choice.

Tickets for the closing gala at the London Tap House on Richmond Street are \$20.

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IF YOU GO

What: London Short Film Showcase

When: Saturday, Aug. 23, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

Where: Rainbow Cinemas, Galleria London, 355 Wellington

St.

Tickets: \$10 per screening or \$20 for the three screenings, available online at www.londonshortfilmshowcase.com (see link), London Chapters locations or at the door.

Kathy Rumleski is a Free Press arts and entertainment reporter.

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Around the Town

Golf Fundraiser JULY 14: The Mixed Celebrity Golf Classic for breast cancer pre-tournament cocktail party was held at Firerock Golf Course.

Fourth Annual Summer Celebration

JULY 7: The fourth annual end-of-season Summer Celebration for Orchestra London was held yesterday at Avstar Landing, the Ildertonarea home of David Taylor, president of Pacific & Western Bank of Canada. The event, sponsored by Taylor and the bank, drew 750 guests including Orchestra London members, patrons, their families and bank staff.

On the Boards

IN PETROLIA: Lambton County's oil history brought to vibrant life

TILL AUG. 30: While approaching this Lambton County community, there are working oil wells in the fields that speak of the local heritage here, while continuing to pump for the future.

REVIEW: Truscott's story on stage was lived by local audience

TILL SEPT. 6: In the lobby at the Blyth Festival, Steven Truscott's smiling face is on the cover of the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted's glossy publication.

REVIEW: Looking for a reality escape? Look elsewhere

TILL SEPT. 6: Art that

The Music File

'It's a way to give back'

AUG. 30: Life isn't always simple for Simple Plan.

New venue steps out in style

TILL AUG. 31: Toes tapping to the big band music, Joy Gerofsky just wanted to get up and dance, like in the good old days

Rejoice, Londoners --LOLA is back once again

THROUGH SEPTEMBER: Sweet September has a bit of everything in London entertainment.

Take five

SEPT. 6, 7, 13, 18-20, 23: A downtown fest back for its third edition, and old favourites the High School Project and Cuckoo's Nest folk series help spice this

Strawberries and Champagne in the

Country JUNE 30: A fundraiser for Fanshawe Chorus London and the Gerald Fagan Singers was held at the home of Hank and Anne Vander Laan.

Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant JUNE 30:

The restaurant celebrated its second anniversary and the opening of its wine cellar with a fundraiser for the Robotic Surgery Simulation Centre at London Health Sciences Centre's University Campus.

Kaleidoscope Ride

JUNE 30: A concert at Aeolian Hall to raise awareness of autism featured the singing duo of Sarah Sobey, who has autism, and her mother, Kim Souch.

Stratford Festival

AT STRATFORD: Dennehy fuses both great dramas

TILL AUG. 31: Ask anyone who's ever fallen under the spell of fine theatre and they'll tell you some of the best theatre in the world takes place, not on the stage, but rather in your mind.

Star lights up festival

TILL AUG. 31: He meanders on stage with a wrinkled suit and a stagger in his step.

AT STRATFORD: Compelling Palmer Park propelled by superb cast

TILL SEPT. 21: In the opening scenes of Palmer Park -- a new work from playwright Joanna McClelland Glass that premiered on the stage of the Stratford Festival's Studio Theatre this past weekend -- a lot of people are likely to wonder just why this particular play is running on this particular stage.

HOT TICKET: Universal appeal

TILL SEPT. 28: Director and playwright Peter Hinton locates Shakespeare's Universe on a new Stratford Shakespeare Festival stage this summer. offers an escape from reality has its place, but so does art that causes us to look honestly at the world, the things that occur in it, and the brutal way the hominids who occupy it behave toward one another.

Blyth Festival rolls out playbill

TILL SEPT. 6: Blyth Festival officials are offering Londoners a peek at the festival's upcoming season on Saturday.

Innocence Lost

TILL SEPT. 6: Whenever teenage actor Curtis te Brinke rehearses Steven Truscott's chilling trial scene for the world premiere of a Blyth Festival play, it takes its toll emotionally.

HOT TICKET: Innocence Lost

TILL SEPT. 6: The muchanticipated play about the Steven Truscott story is ready to unveil next week at the Blyth Festival.

Truscott on playbill

TILL SEPT. 6: In a bold move, the Blyth Festival -- one of the region's foremost theatre companies -- has added the Stephen Truscott story to its upcoming playbill, generating early buzz.

Blyth festival extends run of play about Truscott

TILL SEPT. 13: Blyth Festival's historic production of Innocence Lost: A Play About Steven Truscott has added six more performances in September due to a huge demand for tickets.

Grand explores life's various sides

OPENS SEPT. 23: Theatre reminds us of what it means to be human, Susan Ferley, the artistic director of the Grand Theatre, says.

Palace shimmers

OPENS SEPT. 26: Step inside the stately Palace Theatre and you can almost feel the presence of the actors, directors and stage managers who walked the halls of this historic building.

REVIEW: Sondheim's musical gets intimate onstage

TILL OCT. 4: NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE -- Fans of Stephen Sondheim's musicals are accustomed to passion, but when it Ossis basking

month's picks.

Oasis booking confirms JLC buzz

SEPT. 9: This spring's Oasis buzz was right -- the British rock band won't leave Canada without stopping in London.

Idol Star, Travis among the acts on grandstand

SEPT. 5-12: Western Fair's 2008 grandstand lineup makes room for an American Idol contender, plenty of Canadian content, some country and a touch of the blues.

ENTERTAINMENT BUZZ: Daughtry to play Western Fair on Sept. 12

Sept. 12 SEPT. 12: The band led by the guy who should have won American Idol back in 2006 and had the bestselling U.S. album in 2007 is coming to the 2008 Western Fair.

ENTERTAINMENT BUZZ: Crow returns to JLC

SEPT 24: U.S. rocker Sheryl Crow is coming back to the John Labatt Centre.

Carnival stops at JLC

OCT. 6: Carrie Underwood fans can go for a spin on her Carnival Ride Tour this October as it makes a stop at the John Labatt Centre.

Henry Rollins, U.S. punk icon and antipoet, London-bound

OCT. 21, 28, 30: The last time U.S. punk rocker and spoken word artist Henry Rollins brought his solo tour to Centennial Hall, it was 2003 -- and he made one thing clear from the start.

Concert calendar gets more crowded

OCT. 26, NOV. 13, 25, 29: The London fall concert scene continues to swirl.

RIGHT HERE: Former Merla Mae stars return essential to see

NOV. 8: Back in 1991, you could have found Right Here under the trees in Victoria Park -- enjoying the first London international children's festival and his introduction to a fine young a cappella group called the Humdingers.

Festivals

Take five

AT STRATFORD: Compelling piece of theatre

TILL OCT. 4: It could be described in its way as a kitchen-sink drama, written in the days before there were kitchen sinks.

REVIEW: Third dimension lost in students' Labour

TILL OCT. 4: There is a reason to see the Stratford Festival production of Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost during its run in the Tom Patterson Theatre, where it opened last weekend.

REVIEW: The Hell of war

TILL OCT. 5: Regardless of who wins, it always seems to be the women who lose at war.

REVIEW: Moby Dick lost at sea

TILL OCT. 18: Apparently becalmed in the wake of his commercially successful stage adaptation of The Overcoat, playwright/director Morris Panych has clamoured aboard the good ship Pequod and, like some latter day Christopher Columbus, set sail in search of new theatrical lands to conquer.

REVIEW: Big baggage, good voyage

TILL OCT. 25: If ever one needed proof positive that not every work created by a master is by extension a masterpiece -- or even that not all art is timeless -- one might be well advised to look to Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew.

REVIEW: Cabaret steals heart

TILL OCT. 25: This may be your parents' Cabaret -but chances are, it's going to take them awhile to recognize it.

REVIEW: Sure-footed actor leads Hamlet

TILL OCT. 26: Adrian Noble's direction advances Shakespeare's penetrating plot and tormented characters with confidence and ease.

Twisty road to Stratford

TILL NOV. 1: Eddie Glen's road to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival took a while -and a few twists. comes to staging the work of the master of the thinking-man's musical, the Shaw Festival offers intimacy, too.

REVIEW: Forget Obama, this President wins in landslide

TILL OCT. 4: NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE -- For a fledgling director Blair Williams, takes his comedy seriously indeed, and that's good news for anyone wanting a heaping helping of laughter to wash down lunch here.

REVIEW: Oh, what a night

TILL OCT. 5: If you've always harboured a secret desire to hang out with the coolest guys in the neighbourhood, the wait is over.

Local performers land plum roles in Sound of Music

OCT. 15: The hills are alive -- with the sound of London-region singers.

From Tolkien to Melville, Woodstock actor succeeds

TILL OCT. 18:
Woodstock's Matt
Cassidy played Aragorn in
the Lord of the Rings and
the ugly half of Beauty
and the Beast on his way
to the Stratford
Shakespeare Festival.

Wilson stays near roots

TILL OCT. 18: Ryan Wilson is able to keep family members close to him while he performs at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

THEATRE: Tiny Tim, Molly actors focus of Grand search

NOV. 28-DEC. 24: "God bless us, every one!" may be heard throughout London playgrounds and day camps this summer as children brush up on their Tiny Tim lines.

Broadway shows barrel into Forest City

NOV. 29-JULY 9, 2009: The Broadway in London series brings touring musical comedies, dance spectacles, Billy Joel songs and more to stages here next season.

Sports

Weekend packed with motorsports

TILL AUG. 31: Grab an empty plate and step up

SEPT. 6, 7, 13, 18-20, 23: A downtown fest back for its third edition, and old favourites the High School Project and Cuckoo's Nest folk series help spice this month's picks.

What's Up

Stronach pool going to the dogs for a good cause

AUG. 31: Go on. Let your dog take the plunge.

Soccer club reaches out to Sudan players

TILL SEPT. 8: A soccer group that helps children in the city is reaching out to help kids thousands of kilometres away, too.

To Bee or not to Bee seminar is generating plenty of buzz

SEPT. 13: There are still spaces open for a September gardening seminar in Bayfield that's generating a lot of buzz.

Men to don pumps in the park to raise funds for Women's Community House

SEPT. 14: London sidewalks will get uncomfortably crowded next month when 300 men will walk a mile in women's shoes.

London Hydro's future in hands of taxpayers

SEPT. 18: Londoners, you own an asset worth nearly a quarter billion dollars. So, what do you want to do with it?

Annual riverside cleanup nears

SEPT. 20-28: Shopping carts, truck tires, a couch cushion, a mattress, and a lawn chair all turned up.

Hall of Flamers won't attend

OCT. 3-5: No sex, please, we're London firefighters.

Sex focus of London trade show

OCT. 3-5: A national sex show is coming to London.

On Exhibit

MY LONDON: Dance Hall Daze heavenly mix

SEPT. 19-JAN. 18: Thanks to Maya Hirschman and a strong supporting cast, there's a make-believe ballroom at Museum London's Lawson Family gallery.

Boy wonder(ful) at fest

TILL NOV. 1: In 1962, Ron Howard played Winthrop Paroo in the film version of The Music Man.

REVIEW: Goad's talent, charisma to the fore

TILL NOV. 1: It is a role that, for many, will always belong to the late Robert Preston.

REVIEW: Social power play still relevant

TILL NOV. 1: Whoever observed that it's not the fall that kills you, but rather the landing, obviously was not talking about social slip-ups.

AT STRATFORD: All hail Plummer

TILL NOV. 8: Vini, vidi, vici -- I came, I saw, I conquered.

HOT TICKET: Hail Caesar!

TILL NOV. 8: The Stratford Shakespeare Festival adds its star power to George Bernard Shaw's wit and romantic comedy when Caesar and Cleopatra opens Aug. 17 at 8 p.m. to the motorsports buffet at area tracks this Labour Day weekend.

Robblee chasing eighth title

TILL AUG. 31: What Michael Phelps was to the Beijing Olympics, Steve Robblee is about to become to Delaware Speedway.

Delaware homecoming

TILL AUG. 31: Touring championship late-model racing is returning to Delaware Speedway.

This guy's 'game' sings

TILL AUG. 31: Joe Horowitz is the only player who can claim to have made money this year at every stop on the Canadian Tour.

Big tour hits small town

TILL AUG. 31: SEAFORTH -- It's showtime.

No Mac for Mustangs on OUA football sked

SEPT. 1-OCT. 18: The Western Mustangs will open their Ontario universities football season with a Sept. 1 (Labour Day) night game at home against Ottawa Gee-Gees as part of a schedule that includes a Thursday night game.

Terry Fox's remarkable London visit recalled

SEPT. 14: The emotion in the crowd was so thick, you could feel it.

MY LONDON: Photos worth a thousand words

TILL OCT. 1: The power and beauty of the photograph have new meaning for me after a visit to Museum London last week

PALETTE: Art scene hot in June

TILL OCT. 18: The whimsical, wonderful days of summer are here and galleries are opening their doors to the public to explore the visual arts world. There's an abundance of exhibitions to explore close to home.

THE ARTS: Museum breaking with tradition to broaden audience

TILL NOV. 16: Contrary to some, museums aren't just places for dusty artifacts or shushing security guards.

PALETTE: On the move

TILL NOV. 16: For the last couple of years London artist Ron Milton has "turned" to the Thames for a source of inspiration as a member of the River Project.

Dark Donnelly legend embraced as tourist draw

OPENS MAY 2009: For years, the unspoken word in town was say nothing about the Donnellys.

Family and Children

Double-decker attracts riders from near and far

TILL SEPT. 1: They came from as far away as Greece, and as nearby as down the street, to ride the red bus.

Double-decker tours proving popular among Londoners

TILL SEPT. 1: An opportunity to see London through the eyes of a tourist has proven so popular, eight free tours on the city's double-decker bus are fully booked.

Thomas the Tank Engine on one hand, Simple Plan on other coming to JLC

OCT. 2: It couldn't have been planned.

Wiggles on way to JLC

OCT 27: Mass wiggling is set to start at the John

Labatt Centre on Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

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