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Best Schmoozefest for Filmmakers

Charleston International Film Festival

BY NICK SMITH

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We don't go to film festivals for the movies or the shwag. We go for the parties, whether they're VIP receptions, aftershow back-slappers, or awards ceremonies. 2008's International Film Festival had a plentiful supply, from Charleston Film Alliance members clustered in a corner of the Terrace to hoards of hopefuls collected in the Francis Marion Hotel for a climactic awards gala. Organizers Summer Spooner and Brian Peacher used the Beverly Hills Film Festival as a template for this, their first movie screening event in the Lowcountry. But it was their choice of party venues — Chai's, Bridgeside at the Motley Rice Building, Cottage on the Creek — that really made the fest memorable. Expect serious schmoozing in April.

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