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## Regional Film News

By Nick Smith

### New Film Fest

It's been 10 years since the WorldFest Charleston International Film Festival breathed its last. In the meantime, the Savannah Film Festival has continued to increase its cachet — Michael Douglas, Milos Forman, and the Redgrave family are all honored guests at this year's event, which opens on Oct. 27. So it's about time Charleston got back in the act. And it's doing just that in May 2008, when a brand-new Charleston international film festival is slated to debut.

Festival Director Summer Spooner is a veteran of the Beverly Hills Film Festival. Among her film and television credentials, Spooner has worked as a production assistant on 2002's Emmy Awards, 2003's Academy Awards, and 2003's MTV Awards. She's also a co-producer on the forthcoming movie, *Lie to Me*, starring *Superman Returns*' Brandon Routh.

The festival will showcase original projects including screenplays, shorts (less than 50 minutes long), fictive features, and documentaries that are free from the grub of studio interference.

The festival is accepting submissions through March 1, 2008.

Entry fees range from \$29-\$39 depending on the length of the film (\$15 for the screenplays). The organizers can be reached at (843) 817-1617. —Nick Smith

### Southern Circuit

Thanks to the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, local moviegoers are getting a taste of Southern Circuit, the Southern Arts Federation's touring program for independent filmmakers. The latest batch of screenings include Cynthia Hill's human interest documentary *The Guestworker* in October and Jay Craven's period drama *Disappearances* in November. Right now there's a call for entries for next year's series which will run in late 2008.

To apply, you have to be a U.S. resident with a valid driver's license and a film (or films) to plug. The whirlwind tour covers the Southeastern United States, with stops in approximately 10 cities. Selected filmmakers receive a payment for each screening plus expenses for travel and accommodations. The standard deadline is Feb. 1, 2008, with a \$30 submission charge for each entry.

In the tour's 32 years of existence, about 200 films have been shown in 30 different places.

For full submission details, e-mail David Dombrosky at [davidd@southarts.org](mailto:davidd@southarts.org) —Nick Smith