

NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

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THE SECOND ANNUAL NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 1997 FESTIVAL DATES

NEW YORK, NY, January 22, 1997 -- The second annual Nantucket Film Festival, honoring screenwriters and their craft, will run June 17 - 22, 1997, it was announced today by Jonathan Burkhart, the festival's co-founder and executive director.

The Nantucket Film Festival's six-day event, on Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, focuses on the screenwriter and the art of storytelling through film. The festival's program includes short- and feature-length films, documentaries, Q&A with filmmakers, staged readings with a distinguished array of talented actors, provocative panel discussions, and Morning Coffee With..., a lively discussion with writers. In addition, the Nantucket Film Festival Screenplay Competition awards screenwriters the opportunity to have their works read and judged by some of the best writers, producers, directors and executives in the film industry. The competition winner is announced during the festival.

"The success or failure of any film is in the writing," says Burkhart. "It falls on the screenwriter to sustain cinema, the cultural heir to literature as the popular means of storytelling." The festival recognizes that at the core of every film, whether linear or nonlinear, is a story conceived and shared by the screenwriter and the filmmaker. This phenomenon, called *film d'auteur*, or cinema by author-director, was introduced by the French New Wave generation 35 years ago. Suggesting that film directors author their films just as writers labor on their works, their films effected viewers in a similar

way: audiences absorbed these movie stories as readily as readers doted on novels fresh out of Guttenberg's printing machines.

The different genres of cinema correspond to those known to us in literature -- documentaries evoking essays and reports; short films evoking pamphlets and poems; feature films evoking epics and novels. Cinematic style and structure rely on literary strategies chiseled during centuries of written storytelling traditions. So much so that we are inclined to cry out loud while reading such 19th-century greats as Dickens or Mark Twain: "It reads like a film!"

For more information on the Nantucket Film Festival, applications for film submissions, and Screenplay Competition entry forms, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL
PO BOX 688
PRINCE ST STA
NEW YORK NY 10012-0012

Complete film submission and Screenplay Competition entry forms, as well as all information on the Nantucket Film Festival, can be found at:

www.nantucketfilmfestival.org

The deadline for all film submissions and screenplay competition entries is

April 18, 1997

The Nantucket Film Festival is a not-for-profit organization founded in December 1995 by the brother and sister team of Jonathan Burkhart (executive director) and Jill Goode (artistic director) to support and celebrate the screenwriter and the art of filmmaking.

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