



NBC UNIVERSAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS AT THIRD ANNUAL 'COMEDY SHORT CUTS' FILM FESTIVAL

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. – October 24, 2008 - NBC Universal's honored the winners of its finalist filmmakers in the categories of Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor in the company's third-annual "Comedy Short Cuts" Diversity Film Festival on October 23 at Universal Studios Globe Theater in Los Angeles, it was announced today by Ben Silverman, Co-Chairman, NBC Entertainment and Universal Media Studios.

Sharing the honor of this year's Best Film were "6ft. in 7min." by director-writer Rafael Del Toro -- and "Strange Faculty" by creator-producers Marty Johnson, Will Luera and Mark Odum. Also honored as Best Director was Del Toro for "6ft. in 7min." while Jose Compre was feted as Best Actor for his performance in "Little Bones."

Shaun Robinson of "Access Hollywood" hosted the exclusive event featuring the top six Comedy Short Cuts finalist films, which were produced with a diverse production team, cast or theme.

"We are thrilled to share in the exhilaration that these deserving winners must feel," said Silverman. "NBC Universal looks forward to continuing our tradition of supporting this vital film festival that supports creative filmmakers and strengthens our crucial diversity efforts," said Silverman.

Co-winners Del Toro, Johnson, Luera and Odum will receive a pilot script commitment from Universal Media Studios. The other finalists for Best Film this year were Owen Thomas ("The Road"), Fabian Marquez ("Little Bones"), Iman Zawahry ("Tough Crowd") and Deon Hayman ("The Don of Virgil Jr. High").

Paula Madison, Executive Vice President of Diversity, NBC Universal said, "Comedy Short Cuts gets better every year and allows NBC Universal to use its many assets encourage young, diverse and promising film artists to gain a wider audience. The program excels as an essential component in our continuing campaign to develop more diversity within the industry. We are so proud of today's winners."

Corporate support of this year's initiative came from sponsors such as Showbiz Software, American Airlines, and Coca-Cola North America.

"We are proud to sponsor the 2008 NBC Comedy Short-Cuts Film Festival as part of our commitment to emerging talent in television and film," says Steve Bizenov, Vice President, Sales & Software Development for Media Services, who oversees the company's Showbiz Software division. "We've supported the independent production industry for years by delivering better software, services and resources to indie filmmakers, so it was a natural fit for us to participate in this important initiative."

"American Airlines is proud to sponsor the NBC Universal Comedy Short Cuts Film Festival, and play a role in supporting diversity in the world of film and television," said an American Airlines marketing executive.

Comedy Short Cuts Film Festival was founded in 2005 by actor/writer/comedian Wil Sylvince, a Haitian American comedian, whose stand-up routine often mines his Haitian heritage for laughs. Sylvince recognized the need for this platform based on the challenges he faced in trying to showcase his talent to key decision makers within the entertainment industry. His dream became a reality when NBC Universal supported his vision to launch this very important diversity initiative.

Comedy Short Cuts Film festival is also a celebration of www.diversecitynbc.com, the online community that serves as a hub for diversity across all aspects of the entertainment industry spearheaded by Kendra Carter, Director Talent Diversity Initiatives, for NBC Universal.

Comedy Short Cuts is a company-wide initiative and is one of many live events produced by NBC's Talent Diversity Division, whose goal is to cultivate diversity both in front of and behind the camera. This year's panel of judges included creative executives: Kate Schumaecker (Superb Entertainment), Jeff Ingold (NBC), Lauren Anderson (Universal Media Studios) and Jon Koa (Universal Media Studios). Jay Chandrasekhar (Director/Writer-Super Troopers, The Dukes of Hazzard) will also serve as a judge at the event.

Semi-finalist films were screened in New York City in conjunction with the New York Television Festival on September 15. The event was hosted by Anthony Anderson of NBC's "Law & Order."

Last year, a blind script commitment with Universal Media Studios was presented to Tajamika Paxton and Gregory M.T. Colleton for their film "A Fat Girl's Guide to Yoga" - a film short about a plus-size African-American woman's yoga journey to lose weight. The filmmakers are currently developing projects with Universal Media Studios' Conaco Productions.

For more information on Comedy Short Cuts go to www.CSCnbcuni.com
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