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**THE OTHER VENICE FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR ITS FOURTH SEASON  
MARCH 15-18, 2007 – TIX NOW ON SALE AT WWW.OTHERVENICEFILMFEST.COM**

**Fest to Feature 60 World Premiere Films and Works by More Than 90 Filmmakers  
-- Half of the Films Were Shot by Venice Locals or in Venice, CA --**

**Steven Weber, Camryn Manheim, Chris Mulkey, Lee Arenberg, Paul Johansson, Ben Parrillo,  
Will Wallace and Others to Perform at Fest's First Live Staged Reading -- 4 p.m., March 18**

**VENICE, CA**, March 5, 2007 -- The Other Venice Film Festival (OVFF), a community event dedicated to screening full-length, short and animated films that embody the spirit, energy and diversity of Venice, CA, returns for its fourth season from March 15 to 18 with screenings, spirited Q&A sessions after each film, art, parties and live music performances. Screenings and events will take place at two venues in Venice – The Electric Lodge located at 1416 Electric Ave. ([www.electriclodge.org](http://www.electriclodge.org)) and Switch Studios, 316 S. Venice Blvd. ([www.switch-studios.com](http://www.switch-studios.com)).

The 2007 OVFF is proud to present the work of more than 90 filmmakers (up from 75 last year, 40 in 2005 and 17 in the inaugural 2004 season), including 60 world premieres – more than ever before. **"From Under My Bed,"** an exhibition of artworks by long-time Venice local, actress and artist Karen Landry-Mulkey makes its debut on OVFF's opening night, March 15, and will be up through April 15 at the Electric Lodge.

Opening night kicks off at the Electric Lodge with **"Freedom from Folly"** – 10 short films ranging from extreme comedy to spiritual horror and family drama, followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers, including Steven Weber and Juliette Hohnen who co-directed and produced the short film **"Embrasse."** Doors open at 7 p.m. for sushi cocktail hour courtesy of [www.WabiSabiSushi.com](http://www.WabiSabiSushi.com), along with live music by local acoustic/psychedelic/ambient band, **Super Cosmic Fuzz** (<http://www.myspace.com/supercosmicfuzz>).

Friday, March 16 is party night with the second short film series entitled **"Highs and Lows,"** showcasing 10 docs, comedies and dramas, including "One Sung Hero" with Kyle Gass of Tenacious D, Nicole Sullivan from "Mad TV" and Donna Prescott. A filmmaker Q&A and after-party follows with DJs, drinks and food.

"This is the best and most diverse collection of films we've ever presented," said Gary Ellenberg, OVFF Co-Founder and Programming Director. "Half of our participating filmmakers live west of the 405, and the others hail from as far and wide as Australia, Canada, France, Korea, all across the U.S. and even the Valley."

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A full day of film events kicks off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 17 with **Kid Films** -- 13 shorts made by and for kids, at the Electric Lodge. Bring the little ones for live music by **Parker Bent** ([www.ParkerBent.com](http://www.ParkerBent.com)) starting at 9:45 a.m. At Switch Studios the feature film "**Punk Like Me**," directed by Venice local Zach Merck, makes its Los Angeles premiere. The film tells the surprisingly true story of two Venice parents seeking rock n' roll glory by scamming their way onto the Warped Tour as "Carne Asada" -- the world's original punk rock mariachi band. The one-hour doc "**Zen and Zero**" -- an Austrian-made surf film shot in and on the way to Costa Rica -- plays before, directed by Michael Ginthors.

Two films make their world premiere at the Electric Lodge at noon -- "**The Rat Thing**," a quirky get-rich-quick feature comedy by long-time Venice local Kevin Keresey (who coincidentally had his first read-through of the script at OVFF's founding venue, The Electric Lodge); and the short rock 'n roll spoof "**I'm In The Band**."

Jason Lewis of "Brothers & Sisters" and "Sex in the City" fame, stars in the romantic comedy "**My Bollywood Bride**" directed by Rameez Virani, which plays at Switch Studios at 1 p.m. along with the humorous short "**A Little Light**" featuring Alan Thicke.

Another world premiere feature follows at the Electric Lodge at 3 p.m. -- "**Novel Romance**," ([www.novelromancethemovie.com](http://www.novelromancethemovie.com)), a dramedy starring **Traci Lords**, **Paul Johansson** from TV's "One Tree Hill" and **Sherilyn Finn** shot entirely in Venice by director Emily Skopov. It plays with the world premiere short, "**I Hate Musicals**."

Screening at 4 p.m. at Switch Studios is "**Jam**," ([www.jammovie.com](http://www.jammovie.com)), a pressure cooker of human emotions filmed by local director Craig Serling that first played OVFF as a short in 2005 and is now back as a feature with an expanded ensemble cast including, **David DeLuise**, **Amanda Detmer**, **Amanda Foreman**, **William Forsythe**, **Tess Harper**, **Marianne Jean-Baptiste**, **Jeffrey Dean Morgan**, **Alex Rocco**, **Jonathan Silverman**, and **Gina Torres**, among others. It plays with the world premiere short "**AWOL**," a raw, military head-trip starring **David Morse** and **John C. McGinley**.

Next up at 6 p.m. at the Electric Lodge is the **Experimental Film Series** featuring eight world premieres, ranging from visual art to animation and avante garde. Over at Switch Studios at 7 p.m. the **Political Film Series One** features political docs that matter, including two world premiere shorts -- "**Building Bridges**" and "**Downwinders**" followed by "**The New Los Angeles**" by Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, Lyn Goldfarb of Burbank.

The festival's popular **Music Video Series** returns to the Electric Lodge on Saturday night starting with a live musical performance by LA glam rock band **SoHo Vamp** ([www.SoHoVamp.com](http://www.SoHoVamp.com)) at 9 p.m. followed by world premiere videos from **The Killers** and **Brant Bjork**, the L.A. Premiere of **Robert Cray's "Twenty"** and 13 other music videos by filmmakers and bands from throughout L.A., one from Newport Beach and two from Germany.

The final day of the fest starts at 10 a.m. with the world premiere feature "**Cake: A Wedding Comedy**" directed by Will Wallace. This story about two star-crossed lovers set on eloping but forced into having a big wedding stars G.W. Bailey, Thomas Calabro, Joe Estevez and Ann Cusack. It's paired with another world premiere -- the short film "**Shank**." At the same time over at Switch Studios, two more world premieres are showing as part of the **Political Film Series Two** -- the feature doc "**Behind the Mask**" directed by Shannon Keith, featuring gripping undercover video of animal liberations, and the short film on helping homeless youth, "**Standup For Kids**."

At noon on Sunday there will be a **FREE CONCERT** on the lawn at the Vera Davis Community Center next to the Electric Lodge featuring live music by L.A. hip-hop collective, **The Libra Project** ([www.myspace.com/libraproject](http://www.myspace.com/libraproject)).

**Short Film Series Three** entitled "The Passion of The Human" explores obsessive behavior, martyrdom and rebellion at the Electric Lodge at 1 p.m. At Switch Studios at the same time is the feature film "**The Death of Captain Pilecki**" about a Polish underground soldier who voluntarily walked into a trap to be sent to Auschwitz so he could liberate its prisoners, written and directed by Ryszard Bugajski, and the world premiere short film "**He Lives**."

Next up is OVFF's first-ever live staged reading of the screenplay "**Riding The Pine**" -- a coming-of-age comedy about a guy who fails in sports, but succeeds in life and love with humor on his side -- at 4 pm on Sunday, March 18. Participating actors include **Steven Weber** in the leading role along with **Camryn Manheim**, **Chris Mulkey**, **Lee Arenberg**, **Paul Johansson**, **Ben Parrillo**, **Will Wallace**, **Mike Wiles**, **Chris Leary**, **Karen Landry-Mulkey**, **Ameila Mulkey**, **Elizabeth Mulkey** and **Jessie Gilbert**.

At Switch Studios at 4 p.m. is the world premiere feature film **"Welcome 2 The Henhouse"** ([www.henhousestudios.com](http://www.henhousestudios.com)) – a rock doc that takes the audience on a fantastical journey where 50 bands (including **Fishbone** and John Densmore and Ray Manzarek of **The Doors**) record for free in exchange for the right to be filmed. With a mind-blowing, surreal mix of Super-8 film footage and animation, the film was directed and produced by Harlan Steinberger who first moved to Venice in 1982. It plays with the short film **"Spaceboy."**

Closing out the OVFF is its annual **Abbot Awards Ceremony** (named in honor of Venice, CA's founding father, Abbot Kinney) at the Electric Lodge from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 18, which is **FREE and open to the public**. For the first time ever, an Abbot Award will be presented for the most excellent documentary short and feature, alongside the established Abbot Awards -- most excellent overall short and feature; and Audience Choice awards for short, feature and music video. Local Venice alt rock band **The Modeens** ([www.TheModeens.com](http://www.TheModeens.com)) will perform a live set of music during cocktail hour from 6-7 p.m. before the awards ceremony starts at 7 p.m.

The full OVFF schedule of '07 events and ticket sales are now available online at [www.othervenicefilmfest.com](http://www.othervenicefilmfest.com). Ticket prices are: \$20 for Thursday, March 15 opening night screening with cocktail sushi reception and live music; \$20 for Friday, March 16 short film screenings and after party; and \$10 for individual screening events. Directions to the Electric Lodge are available at (310) 823-0710, ext. 1#.

Just some of the local artists who have participated in the Other Venice Film Festival since 2004 include: Roger Corman, Werner Herzog, Stacy Peralta, Tony Alva, Catherine Hardwick, Tony Bill, Zak Penn, Camryn Manheim, Chris Mulkey, Karen Landry, Lori Petty, Michael Pressman, Lisa Chess, Gary Marcus, Chris Gorak, Paul Crowder, Stanley Mitchell and Sean Welch.

Venice, CA has always been an epicenter for Los Angeles artists and filmmakers who continue to pave the way toward expanding the language of underground, alternative cinema. The Other Venice Film Festival is an annual event run by volunteers that bridges the community of Venice and that of greater Los Angeles together in a competitive, fun-filled weekend of movies and mayhem. For a full schedule of film screenings, a synopsis of each film and additional information on The Other Venice Film Festival and its co-founders – Venice locals Ruby De La Casas, Gary Ellenberg and AJ Peralta -- go to: [www.othervenicefilmfest.com](http://www.othervenicefilmfest.com).

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