

The 5th Annual Hip Hop Odyssey International Film Festival

Written by Robert ID3441

Wednesday, 14 March 2007 07:00 -

Celebrating five years of Hip-Hop Cinema, Education, Art and Culture. The Hip-Hop Odyssey International Film Festival (H2OIFF) showcases a kaleidoscope of Hip-Hop filmmakers and communities from around the world.

The Hip-Hop Association Dubs Film Festival, The World Is Yours! The 5th Annual Hip-Hop Odyssey International Film Festival is sponsored by Jordan Brand, XXL Magazine, SoonR, & the ImaginAsian Theatre

“This year we received an astounding number of film submissions. Our filmmakers are some of the most innovative, including producers & directors that grew from making music videos to feature length films, alongside brand new filmmakers using the aesthetics and inspirations of Hip-Hop to tell new stories. All of them use media as a tool for empowerment, education and social awareness within the Hip-Hop community. I would like to give thanks to all for their continued work in these efforts! See you in June,” says Stacey L’Air Lee, Director of Media.

Taking place from May 31, 2007 – June 16, 2007 at the ImaginAsian Theatre in New York City, this year’s theme “The World Is Yours” highlights the Hip-Hop community of the early/mid 90’s; a time when youth in the community began stepping up and demanding money, power, and respect. Over the course of three weekends, H2OIFF will screen over 60 films from over 10 countries; produce 6 panel discussions on topics ranging from social justice issues to the future of media distribution; and host its hallmark Odyssey Awards ceremony on Saturday, June 16th at the renowned BB Kings Blues Club.

Several pieces of Hip-Hop influenced media will be competing for a variety of awards, including cash awards, opportunities for distribution deals—DVD, broadcast, and web streaming—as well as inclusion in hundreds of community events. H2OIFF showcases films that include one of the elements of Hip-Hop culture in the films theme, story or subject matter, i.e. Breaking (B-Boy/Girl), DJ'ing, MC'ing, Graffiti/Aerosol Art, Beat-boxing, Knowledge of self, Culture and Overstanding. On March 21, 2007 at 3pm, press and special invited guest will be catching a sneak peak of the 2007 feature line up.

During the 4th Annual H2OIFF, the festival gathered the support of over 5,000 festival-goers, screening over 75 films. Swizz Beats, QD3, Grand Mixer DXT, Queen Penn, and Dr. Roxanne Shante shared some industry insights and addressed the most precedent social issues affecting

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our communities. After 6 days of movie screenings and panel discussions, the H2OIFF culminated with the Odyssey Awards. The Last Poets, Afrika Bambaataa, Nelson George, Warrington Hudlin, Anabella Sciorra, CL Smooth, Jeru Da Damaja, Dana Dane, and Sonia Sanchez, were among the presenters and honorees.

“In our fifth year we’re celebrating where the 90’s Hip-Hop art, rebellion, business, unity and conscious soul movements soared to the next level. It was a great time of diversity; different hoods, musical sounds and struggles were all being represented. At the same time people were uniting and demanding more, all for the love of Hip-Hop. We’re celebrating that spirit... expect a live at the BBQ, illmatic kind of festival,” says Rolando Brown, Executive Director of the Hip-Hop Association.

DATES & VENUES

Media/Press Screenings: March 21, 2007 @ 3pm

Venue: The ImaginAsian Theatre | 239 East 59th Street New York, NY 10031

Press and special invited guest will be catching a sneak peak of the 2007 feature line up. Please RSVP | rsvp@hiphopassociation.org or visit www.h2oiff.eventbrite.com

Festival Dates: May 31, 2007 – June 15, 2007

Venue: The ImaginAsian Theatre | 239 East 59th Street New York, NY 10031

Odyssey Awards: June 16, 2007

Venue: BB Kings | 237 W 42nd St, New York, NY 10036

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Thursday, May 31, 2007

Opening Night Film Screening @ 7pm | *Reception to Follow

Theme - That's A Wrap! | Friday, June 1, 2007

6:30pm – 8:00pm - Panel: More Than Just a Rap Game: Hip-Hop's Influence on Sports & the Business World

8:30pm – 10:30 pm Screenings

Theme - Only The Strong Survive | Saturday, June 2, 2007

Sponsored by Third World Newsreel |

3:00pm – 4:30 pm - Panel: Bigger than Hip-Hop: Addressing Exploitation, Violence and the Need for Humanity

5:00 pm – 2:00am - Screenings

Theme - The World Is Yours | Sunday, June 3, 2007

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3:00pm – 4:30pm - Panel: Hip-Hop Monopoly: Hip-Hop's Stake in Art, Media, Education, Activism, Business, Sports, Politics, and Spirituality

8:00 pm – 2:00 am - Screenings

Theme - Choice of Weapon: The Art of Filmmaking | Thursday, June 7, 2007

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Panel: Movie Magic: 5 Techniques to Develop your Game

8:00 pm – 2:00 am - Screenings

Theme - American Gangsta | Friday, June 8, 2007

3:00pm - 4:30pm - Panel: Under the Influence: Hip-Hop's Cosa Nuestra

5:00 pm – 2:00am - Screenings

Theme - We Got Our Own Thing | Saturday, June 9, 2007

3:00pm - 4:30pm - Panel: The Revolution Will Be Digitized: The Future of Distribution

5:00 pm – 12:00am - Screenings

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Theme - Freshest Youth | Sunday, June 10, 2007

3:00pm - 4:30pm - Panel: It's All About M.E.E (Media, Expression, & Education)!

5:00 pm – 12:00am - Screenings

Theme - Ladies First | Thursday, June 14, 2007

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Panel: Venus Rising: Women shaping the future of Hip-Hop Media

8:00 pm – 12:00 am - Screenings

Theme - All Around the World the Same Song | Friday, June 15, 2007

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm - Panel: Global Warming: Hip-Hop Heats the World

8:00 pm – 12:00 am - Screenings

Theme - The World Is Yours | Saturday, June 16, 2007

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The Odyssey Awards

Screenings – 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Reception from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Odyssey Awards Ceremony from 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm

About the H2O [Hip-Hop Odyssey] Media Initiative

Social Awareness Through Media! H2O [Hip-Hop Odyssey] is the media initiative of the Hip-Hop Association. With programming like the H2O [Hip-Hop Odyssey] International Film Festival, the Freshest Youth Program, the ODYSSEY Awards, and Defuse News, its mission is to support the use of Hip-Hop culture as a tool for social awareness and youth empowerment.

For more information please visit <http://www.h2oiff.org> .