

**For Release:**  
Immediately Upon Receipt

**Contact:**  
Linda Ziskind  
917-859-6874  
[Linda@z2consulting.com](mailto:Linda@z2consulting.com)



## ***FilmColumbia Announces '08 Festival Lineup Four Days of Films, Events, and Parties***

[Chatham, NY – Sept. 21, 2008] On Thursday, October 16th, the FilmColumbia Festival returns to Chatham, New York for its 9th season of outstanding independent films and entertaining events. “This year’s lineup has a wonderful mix of comedy, drama, documentaries, and foreign films,” said Chatham Film Club board member and Festival Director Calliope Nicholas. “But nearly all of them have a common thread of examining the push and pull of relationships, whether between families, friends, cultures, or countries. We didn’t intentionally choose films based on a theme, but in this time of economic and political turmoil, as all kinds of relationships are being redefined, we think that it’s a relevant and interesting experience to see how this group of writers, directors, and actors examine both the difficulties and joys of interaction. ”

Hosted by The Chatham Film Club at the historic Crandell Theatre, the festival will feature four full days of independent films, documentaries, shorts, and animations from around the world. This year, there will be three “sneak previews”, which are pre-release independent films that inevitably go on to become award nominees and winners. And, for the first time, the festival is giving filmgoers clues as to the identity of the “sneaks”. To find the clues, and see if you can guess the film, visit the film schedule posted on the FilmColumbia website, [www.filmcolumbia.com](http://www.filmcolumbia.com).

Some of the other films in the festival lineup are:

“**I’ve Loved You So Long**”, starring Kristin Scott Thomas as an emotionally traumatized woman, released from prison after completing a 15 year sentence for an unspeakable crime, who tries to reestablish her relationship with her estranged sister and her bourgeois family.

“**Sunshine Cleaning**”, starring Amy Adams and Emily Blunt as two down-and-out sisters who, without other marketable skills, start a business cleaning up crime and murder scenes.



“**The Secret Life of Bees**”, based on the best-seller by Sue Monk Kidd, features Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah, Alicia Keys, Sophie Okonedo, and Jennifer Hudson.

“**Hard Times at Douglass High**”, acclaimed documentary filmmakers Susie and Alan Raymond’s moving portrait of the inequalities of American minority education.

“**Synecdoche**”, writer Charlie Kaufman’s directing debut, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Michelle Williams, Catherine Keener, Emily Watson, Dianne Weist, and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

“**Happy-Go-Lucky**”, Mike Leigh’s lighthearted comedy about a carefree elementary school teacher aptly named Poppy who breezes through a series of comic episodes.

“**Idiots & Angels**”, a feature length animated movie by award nominee Bill Plympton, whose work frequently appears in FilmColumbia’s animation program. The film tells the story of a bad man who struggles against his better instincts.

“**The Class**”, winner of the Palme d’Or at this year’s Cannes film festival follows a year in the life of a man teaching at an inner-city school in Paris. The director used non-actors, which adds to the film’s feeling of documentary reality.

“**Two Lovers**”, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Gwyneth Paltrow, tells the story of a young man’s attempt to escape family constraints as he chooses between two women, the wild child and the safe, but all-too-familiar girl next door.

In addition to the films, the festival will also present an exciting lineup of events.:

- Friday, October 17, 5:30pm upstairs at Peint O Gwrw: **Film Trivia Party at the Pub**. This live made-for-fun trivia contest is open to all film festival attendees. Moderated by wiz quiz-master Mary Gail Biebel, the contest promises to challenge wonks and wits—while entertaining the rest of us. Prizes (really good ones!) will be awarded.



Come participate at this head-scratching trivia contest as you raise a glass of cheer with the FC crew, fellow filmgoers and some of this year's celebrated filmmakers.

- Saturday, 10am at Morris Memorial: **Screenwriting Competition**. There will be a reading of the winning script from FilmColumbia's Screenwriting Competition and Mark Dickerman, chair of New York University's Screenwriting Department will present awards to all of the winners.
  
- Saturday, 10am at Tracy Memorial: **Filmmaker Panel**. This year's filmmaker panel will talk about the growing trend of distributing independent films online. "Indie Films on Small Screens: The Next Big Thing?" looks at how the Internet and digital technology are changing the ways we consume media, ultimately creating the expectation that everything we read, watch, or listen to will be available online and on-demand. For Indie films struggling to find distribution in an increasingly rarified environment, it's the perfect storm of opportunity. Join the panel of industry experts for bagels, coffee, and lively discussion to find out why, instead of going to the movies, the movies are going to start coming to you.
  
- Sunday, Oct. 19, 10am at Tracy Memorial: **Screenwriting Panel Discussion**. Actor Scott Cohen is back again (by popular demand) to moderate this audience favorite. Regional screenwriters are given a rare opportunity to have their work read by some of Cohen's fellow actors, followed by a discussion of the work. Bring 10 copies of your 10 minute scene (no more than 5 pages).
  
- Sunday, Oct. 19, noon upstairs at Peint O Gwrw: **Film Salon with Peter Biskind and Harry Chotiner**. Author Peter Biskind and NYU film professor Harry Chotiner moderate an informal gab session to talk about the films at this year's festival. Here's a tip, Peter is the festival's film programmer, so don't be afraid to tell him what you think.

Of course, the festival wouldn't be complete without our Saturday night celebration at The Blue Plate restaurant. Join the FilmColumbia crew, visiting filmmakers, and fellow festival goers for "Sweets and Song" a special dessert party after Saturday's Sneak, featuring a buffet of sweets accompanied by a live musical review of great hits from the movies.



Tickets go on sale beginning September 29 for members of The Chatham Film Club, and October 3 for non-members. They will be available via email ([knax3@aol.com](mailto:knax3@aol.com)), regular mail and phone (518-392-3445). Tickets will also be available online and at The Chatham bookstore on October 3. Please note that member discounts will not be available online.

For more information on the festival lineup and to download a pdf of the ticket order form please visit [www.filmcolumbia.com](http://www.filmcolumbia.com)

# # # # # # # #