



## **Chicago International Children's Film Festival Fact Sheet**

- Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, the CICFF is the **oldest, largest and most prestigious festival** of films for children in the U.S, taking place October 22-November 1, 2009. It is the only children's festival in the world to be designated by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an "Academy qualifying" Festival.
- Hailed by press and public as "Cannes for Kids," the CICFF **receives and presents more films** than any other children's festival worldwide.
- Annually, 1000 **entries are submitted from 50 countries** by independent filmmakers and major studios. In 2008, the CICFF screened 249 films from 44 countries worldwide.
- As the **launching point for international and U.S. films for children**, the CICFF programs more than 150 premieres each year, including **world premieres, North American Premieres, United States premieres, and Chicago premieres.**
- **Attendance at the CICFF: approximately 25,000** children, parents, and teachers.
- **The festival welcomes over 130 international guests and celebrities** throughout its 11-day run. All filmmakers, directors, and producers hold workshops or Q & A sessions with children following screenings.
- **Some of the celebrities participating in the past include:** Actor **Shia LaBeouf**; Actor/Director **LeVar Burton**; Actress **Jane Seymour**; Actor **Paul Dooley**; Actor **Jake Gyllenhaal**; Actor/Director **Harold Ramis**; Actress **Sissy Spacek**; Monty Python's **Terry Jones**; Actor/Director **Timothy Hutton.**
- **Filmmakers and distributors around the globe recognize the CICFF** as one of the most important events in the children's film industry worldwide. The CICFF has hosted representatives from **Miramax, Tribeca Film Festival, Starz! Encore, Noggin, Sesame Workshop, YLE-Sveriges Television, Step Lively Productions, Rolling Home Entertainment, Museum of Modern Art (New York) and the National Gallery of Art.**
- The **CICFF serves as the source of programming** for scores of other **studios, distributors, and festivals** internationally through its comprehensive program book, and the ProPass program for film professionals.
- The **CICFF is also directly responsible for curating** the BAMKids International Film Festival at the acclaimed Brooklyn Academy of Music in Brooklyn, NY, and the Wisconsin International Children's Film Festival, which was created by a unique consortium including Wisconsin PBS, the Marcus Theatre Corporation, and the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.
- Over **30 prizes** are awarded to filmmakers each year, including:
  - **BEST OF FEST PRIZE** awarded by popular vote.
  - **The Montgomery Awards** best film by an emerging adult director & best child-produced film.
  - **The Liv Ullmann Peace Prize** (special committee convened by Executive Director)
  - **The Rights of the Child Prize** (special committee convened by Executive Director)
  - **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Certificate of Merit** awarded in all Festival submission categories by Adult & Children's Juries.