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## Northwest Film Forum presents the 6th annual Children's Film Festival Seattle

*This year's festival, held January 28-February 6, 2011 at Northwest Film Forum's cinemas on Capitol Hill, includes an opening night performance by Casper Babypants, a new live score for the silent classic "A Little Princess," and many other cinematic delights for the whole family. Children can also participate in the festival jury or two moviemaking workshops.*

Seattle, WA—Northwest Film Forum is pleased to announce the 6th annual Children's Film Festival Seattle, to be held January 28-February 6 at the Film Forum's cinemas in Seattle. The largest children's film festival in the Pacific Northwest, Children's Film Festival Seattle celebrates the best and brightest in international children's cinema with a 10-day extravaganza of 125 films from 29 countries. This year's edition includes a mind-blowing blend of programs that include live performances, animation, features, shorts, historical films and fantastic hands-on workshops for the filmmakers of tomorrow.

This year's festival will begin with a rockin' pajama party for ages 3 and older, featuring a sneak preview of animated films from the festival, and a concert by **Casper Babypants**, a high-octane kids' band fronted by Seattle music legend Chris Ballew, of The Presidents of the United States of America. Casper Babypants has won raves for playing catchy tunes that make both kids and grownups want to boogie, so audiences members are urged to bring their favorite stuffed animals and be ready to get up and dance in the aisles.

Other highlights include the Northwest premiere of **acclaimed Russian animator** Garri Bardin's new feature film, "The Ugly Duckling;" the world-premiere performance of a new score composed by harpist Leslie McMichael for **the Mary Pickford silent film, "A Little Princess;"** a round-up of current **animation from China** curated by acclaimed teacher and artist **Joe Chang**; a program of short films that spotlights the achievements of **First Nations filmmakers** worldwide; an archival showing of a new 35mm print of **Jacque Tati's** 1958 comic masterpiece, "My Uncle," nine short film programs; a slate of feature films that are all Northwest, US or Seattle premieres; and of course, the **annual Pancake Breakfast**, where families enjoy a tasty meal together before watching a special package of short films on the first Saturday morning of the festival.

Elizabeth Shepherd, Festival Director, says this year's festival will **provide families with a chance to go on a whirlwind trip around the world**, without ever leaving the two cozy cinemas of Northwest Film Forum.

"We've taken a leap forward this year at Children's Film Festival Seattle, with **a significant increase in the number of films in our festival**. This year's fest is bursting at the seams with films that are colorful and fun, and programs that present new cultures and ideas to children. It's a chance to take a magic carpet ride around the globe and get inspired to make a difference in the world."

Especially notable bookings in this year's program include:

- The Northwest premiere of "The Ugly Duckling," the first feature film by acclaimed Russian animator Garri Bardin. The film, which was six years in the making, is a hilarious and touching retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's tale, rendered in glorious stop-motion animation to the soaring strains of music from Tchaikovsky's ballets. The film is currently on the festival circuit, winning an ecstatic response from critics and audiences worldwide.
- The US premiere of "The Crocodiles Strike Back" a new German feature film by Christian Ditter. The film is the sequel to "The Crocodiles," which took the coveted children's jury prize for Best Feature Film at last year's children's film festival.
- A special showing of "A Little Princess," a rarely seen 1917 take on the beloved children's novel starring America's Sweetheart, Mary Pickford. This presentation will boast a new score performed live by Leslie McMichael on Celtic, electric and concert harps.
- The West Coast premiere of "The Indian" a Dutch feature film by Ineke Houtman that tells the story of a boy from Peru who has been adopted and is being raised by parents in The Netherlands.
- The West Coast premiere of "7 Days in Slow Motion," a live-action feature directed, written and produced by Umakanth Thumrogoti, a 15-year Disney Feature Animation veteran. The film, shoot in Herderabad, India, follows the story of Ravi, a boy who decides he can combine cramming for his exams with shooting an epic film in only seven days. Roger Ebert recently called the film "A cheerful family entertainment, completely accessible to American audiences."
- "The Azemichi Road," a Japanese film by Fumie Nishikawa that tells the heartwarming story of a teenaged deaf girl who yearns to dance in a high-pressure competition.
- "My Uncle," the rarely seen English language version of Jacques Tati's 1958 masterpiece, "Mon Oncle."
- "Joe Chang and Friends," a program of contemporary Chinese animation curated by acclaimed animator, teacher and artist Joe Chang. Chang will travel to Seattle from China to introduce the program on Jan. 29 and lead a master class for adult animators at Northwest Film Forum.
- "Indigenous Showcase," curated by Tracy Rector of Native Lens, celebrates emerging talents from indigenous communities worldwide.

As always at Children's Film Festival Seattle, kids will have a chance to delve deeper into

moviemaking through **hands-on workshops**. This year's workshops will include Movie Making With Sock Puppets, scheduled for Jan. 15; and Lights! Camera! Documentary, scheduled for Jan. 23 and 30. To find out more about workshops, including fees, contact Dave Hanagan at 206.329.2629 or [dave@nwfilmforum.org](mailto:dave@nwfilmforum.org).

Kids will also be important decision makers on the **Festival's Children's Jury**. Ten children aged 8-12 will be chosen to see a selection of films and award prizes in several categories. The Jury will convene during the festival, and announce its awards at the Festival's closing ceremonies, February 6 at 5 pm. (To find out more about the Children's Jury, contact Liz Shepherd at [liz@nwfilmforum.org](mailto:liz@nwfilmforum.org).)

Admission to most festival programs is only \$6.50 for kids, \$9.00 for adults and \$6 for Northwest Film Forum members, with the exception of special programs such as opening night, the Pancake Breakfast and the presentation of "A Little Princess." Tickets to all events may be purchased in advance at Northwest Film Forum's website or call (800) 838-3006. Many screenings sell out—parents and caregivers are encouraged to avoid disappointment, tears and tantrums, and get their tickets in advance.

Teachers who are interested in bringing school groups to the festival should contact Liz Shepherd, at 206.829.7862 or write [liz@nwfilmforum.org](mailto:liz@nwfilmforum.org) for more information. Specially designed screenings for schools, home schools and child care providers are scheduled each weekday morning through February 25.

Extensive press information and publicity photos are available at <http://www.nwfilmforum.org/press>. Members of the press interested in talking to the festival director should contact [ryan@nwfilmforum.org](mailto:ryan@nwfilmforum.org) or call (206) 329-2629.

### **About Northwest Film Forum**

Northwest Film Forum is Seattle's premiere film arts organization, screening over 200 independently made and classic films annually, offering a year-round schedule of filmmaking classes (including summer camps for youth), and supporting filmmakers at all stages of their careers. More information is available at [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org).

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