

The Virginia Film Office

February, 2009

STORYBOARD

STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

The first two *State of the Industry* events, held in Richmond and Hampton Roads, were a great success. More than 400 people attended the networking event, 45 merchants and organizations participated in the Expo trade show and films by approximately 30 Virginia independent filmmakers were shown in the screening room. There's one more *State of the Industry* scheduled for **Wednesday, February 25 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Arlington**. There's still time for vendors to sign up for the Expo, and reservations are requested (but not required) for the networking event. For more information, visit www.film.virginia.org or call 800.854.6233. [Go here to RSVP](#)

NEW THEATRE COMPLEX OPENS IN CITY OF RICHMOND

The city of Richmond welcomes the first new cinema complex to open in the city in more than 35 years. Built and managed by the exclusive Bow Tie Cinema group, whose motto is “**bringing style and elegance back to the movie-going experience**,” the 17-theatre complex will show feature and independent films completely commercial free. As part of the opening festivities, the theatre will be screening *Sunshine Cleaning* as a benefit for the VCU Children's Medical Center. The film was written by Virginia screenwriter Megan Holley and was a winner of the Virginia Screenwriting Competition sponsored by the Virginia Film Office. [Go here](#) for information about the benefit. The grand opening of the facility will be Friday, February 27. [Go here](#) for information about Bow Tie Cinemas, Movieland and what will be showing.

VA SCREENWRITING COMPETITION CALL FOR ENTRIES

It's time to finish that screenplay you've been working on. The Virginia Film Office will be holding its annual screenwriting competition this spring, with **entries accepted from March 2 – May 22**. (It's the competition that helped Virginia writer Megan Holley get her script for *Sunshine Cleaning* produced.) If you want to be on the mailing list to receive information about the competition, please [email](#) your name, address and phone number to the Virginia Film Office. For information about the competition visit www.film.virginia.org.

JAMES RIVER FILM FESTIVAL CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries are now being accepted for the 16th annual James River Film Festival, a Richmond festival that celebrates independent film, video and animation. Original short films of 30 minutes or less, in any category, may be submitted by any independent or student filmmaker. Entries will be judged and

up to \$2,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded. The deadline for entries has been extended until **February 27, 2009**. Entries must be submitted in either DVD or VHS format and be accompanied with a \$30 entrance fee. For applications and additional information visit the [Richmond Moving Image Coop](#) website. The James River Film Festival will be held April 13-19.

CHINESE FILMS SHOWN IN RICHMOND AT CHINA FEST

The fourth annual China Fest, a festival promoting cultural understanding between the United States and China through the arts and cultural exchanges, will be held this year from February 19 – 22 in Richmond. Panel discussions include *Robust Living - Chinese Philosophy of Health and Wellbeing* and *Art Along the Silk Road*. Sunday is dedicated to families, with arts and crafts, entertainment and a gallery hunt at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Festival will feature three Chinese language films with subtitles. ***Up the Yangtze*** screens February 20 and 22 at the University of Richmond. The film follows a luxury cruise boat up the Yangtze, navigating China's mythic waterway. On Saturday, February 20, the Byrd Theatre will screen ***The Song of Tibet***, a film that showcases Tibet's history through a young Tibetan woman's love stories with three Tibetans who represent authority, courage and intelligence. ***Letter from an Unknown***, recognized for its exceptional cinematography is a 1948 film about unrequited love. Visit the [Festival website](#) for more information.

OSCAR NIGHT IN PETERSBURG

This is the third year that The Central Virginia Film Institute is sponsoring one of only 53 official parties held across the country on **Oscar Night®**. The cost is \$25 per person and guests will enjoy delicious food, red carpet interviews, official Oscar® "swag" from the Academy in Hollywood, a silent and live auction, cash bar, door prizes and view the Oscars® on the big screen at *The Bistro* in Petersburg. "Proceeds will provide scholarships to young people through the ***If I Can Dream...*** educational program of the Central Virginia Film Institute, a non-profit organization. Tickets are limited. For reservations call the Bistro at 804-732-4480. For information about the Central Virginia Film Institute and its programs visit www.cvafilm.org.

VIRGINIA PRODUCTION ALLIANCE NEWS

The **Virginia Production Alliance (VPA)** is participating in the Ukrops Golden Gift program again this year. The Alliance will receive a percentage of all purchases made in the month of March. Certificates will be issued in March and must be submitted to the organization by the end of May. The VPA is also currently sponsoring its annual membership campaign. **Thanks to everyone who has sent in their membership application.** If you haven't, please consider joining. The Alliance is an important part of Virginia's production community, providing educational and networking opportunities throughout the year. One of the most important aspects of the VPA is its lobbying work with Virginia lawmakers on legislation that benefits the media production industry in the state. Memberships are \$40 for individuals, \$15 for students and \$125 for a corporate membership which includes three individual memberships. You can join online with PayPal or by mail. Visit www.filmva.com to find out more.



This newsletter is prepared by the [Virginia Film Office](#).
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