

Take two

**International flavor
livens this year's
Taos Shortz Film Festival**

By Rick Romancito

A wide variety of short films showcasing an international array of filmmakers will be screened Saturday (Jan. 10) during the second annual Taos Shortz Film Festival at the Kachina Lodge, 413 Paseo del Pueblo Norte.

"We will feature 30-plus juried short films from around the world," festival director Anna Cosentine said. "Films from India, Netherlands, England and Canada will be highlighted, as well as films from around the United States."

Categories include documentary, fiction, animation and experimental. "There will be three programs with unique films in each program," Cosentine said.

The first program is at 2 p.m. and is open to all ages. The evening programs at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. are recommended for mature audiences. There will also be a Q&A with visiting filmmakers after each program.

FILMS
Continued
on Page 20

Films

Continued from Page 25

A meet and greet social is planned Friday (Jan. 9), 5-7 p.m. at Ogelvies Bar and Grill on the east side of Taos Plaza. Cosentine said this is when "filmmakers can join the public to network before the event," according to an announcement. Drink specials will be available for passholders.

A Sunday Brunch Awards Ceremony also is planned Sunday (Jan. 11) at the Kachina Lodge. The awards will be selected by the viewing public.

Cosentine slogged through the snow at the Greater World Earthship community to stop by *The Taos News*, Saturday (Jan. 3) to talk about what's happening at this year's event. "This is the second annual Taos Shortz Film Fest. We're holding it in January this year instead of November because I think January is a more appropriate time for people to come."

So, what is the Taos Shortz Film Festival?

"We're dedicated to showing top quality films from around the world," Cosentine said. All must be 30 minutes or less in length. "What I've done in my call for entries is to post worldwide, so unlike a lot of the state film festivals which focus just on filmmakers in New Mexico, I include them as well, but more so I get global films. I think that's important because not only should we support New Mexico but we should support indie filmmaking worldwide."

Incidentally, the 48 Hour Film Festival and Basement Films, both out of Albuquerque, have contributed films for Taos Shortz.

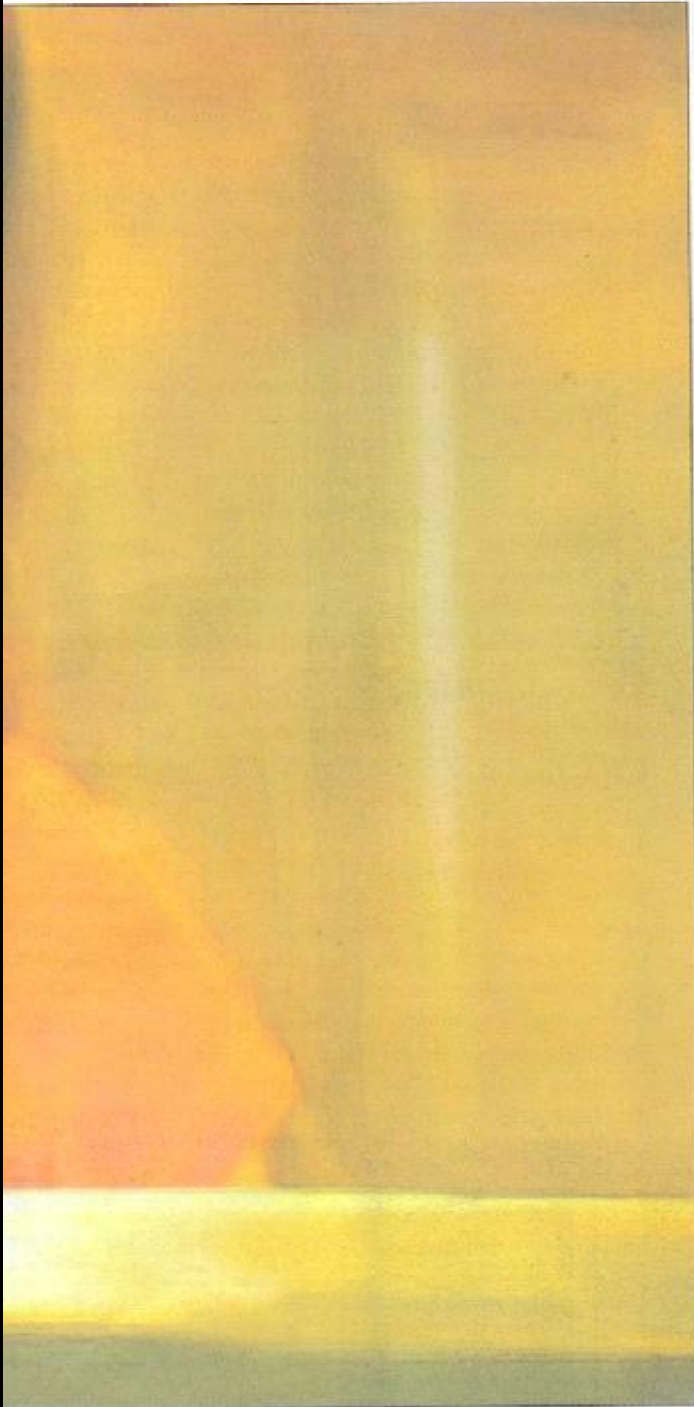
"The thing about short films, which is so intriguing and that fascinates me and a lot of people, is that you have to capture a person's attention in a short amount of time, as opposed to a feature film in which you can have character development and a plot and the story," Cosentine said. "That's a fascinating part of indie filmmaking. There are so many short films out there. The filmmakers are trying every way they can to get viewed. It's hard. So, I'm trying to provide a venue for them to get their films out and also it's very important to me to have the Taos community come together and see these great films because, aside from just being entertaining, they're educational they and inspire people."

Other than film festivals such as this, the distribution opportunities for short subjects tend to be limited. Few venues are available on television.

As far as the programs are concerned, Cosentine said this year's juried selections are fiction-heavy. "We have a lot of dramatic and comedy fiction. We also have about seven or eight documentaries and about six animation films. This year we've included some experimental works. Some are really fantastic." She suggests "Dream of American Pit Bull" as one audiences should not miss. There is also one filmmaker that will represent Taos. She is Jodi McNichols from Arroyo Seco.

Each of the films in the festival are selected by a panel of three judges who make their

FILMS
Continued
on Page 26



Courtesy photo

'I am looking for volunteers the night of the festival to serve in the box office and as ushers and to just be around to greet the filmmakers.'

ANNA COSENTINE

Films

Continued from Page 27

decisions based upon style and quality. And, although it may seem like Cosentine is a one-woman show, there are a lot of other people behind the scenes. "I am looking for volunteers the night of the festival to serve in the box office and as ushers and to just be around to greet the filmmakers," she said. "The filmmakers are all excited to come, by the way. I get e-mails from them saying 'I can't wait,' and another person said,



F Y I

Film festival

■ **When:** Saturday (Jan. 10), 2 p.m. until closing

■ **Where:** Kachina Lodge, 413 Paseo del Pueblo Norte

■ **Admission:** Tickets \$10 per show; all-show pass \$25; \$5 children under 12

■ **Information:** www.taosshortz.com

lence and some things that wouldn't be appropriate for children." The filmmakers were under no restrictions, other than explicit pornography, about what to submit. "I want this festival to have a vision and a look of excellence," Cosentine said.

'I haven't been to Taos since my honeymoon and it's my most favorite city on earth.'"

As mentioned, the first program is geared to general audiences. "Several are geared to children and there's a lot of animation," she said. The latter two are a bit more edgy in content.

"There's some nudity, some violence and some things that wouldn't be appropriate for children." The filmmakers were under no restrictions, other than explicit pornography, about what to submit. "I want this festival to have a vision and a look of excellence," Cosentine said.

One of the things that has helped get the festival going this year is its new nonprofit status. It is now a program of Open Hearth, a Taos based nonprofit community arts organization whose purpose is to build creative communities in Taos and New Mexico. Its central activities focus on the Open Hearth Salon series in the Taos Plaza Theater Loft, Open Hearth Poetry Project, and Seasonal Celebrations, a series of children's events occurring on the solstice or equinox.

Cosentine said she is excited about the change because "we can become part of a bigger community, and that's a good thing."

All the screenings will take place Kachina Lodge, which Cosentine said has been very accommodating. "It's going to be cabaret style, so people can go to the bar and get a drink or some food and come back with it and watch the movie (except for the early family-friendly show). The front part will be seats and the back part will be tables.

Supporters include Taos Mountain Casino, *The Taos News*, KTAO-FM 101.9 and *Five Magazine*, 48 Hour Film Project and Basement Films.

Admission is \$10 per show. A \$25 pass is available to all shows; \$5 for children under 12. Advance tickets are available now at TaosSound, 314F Paseo del Pueblo Norte. For additional details, visit online www.taosshortz.com.

For more on Open Hearth, contact David Behrstock at (575) 751-7393 or david@taosplazatheater.com.

TAOS
101.9FM

Your
favorite
stations

Luna
103.7FM

na 103.7 fm
AOS

o.com luna1037.com



A Better You®

A Medical Skin Care Facility in Taos

Restylane Injections® • Botox Injections
Acne Treatments • Patented Wound Healing Cream
Prescription Strength Skin Bleaching Creams
Physician Strength Chemical Peels
Other Skin Problems

575-776-8332 • Cell: 575-770-6161

Dr. Marshall P. Reich, MD FACS • Northstar Plaza, Suite 69B • El Prado