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Jacksonville's First 48 Hour Film Project Hits Capacity; Public Invited to Attend Events

Jacksonville, Fla. – July 25, 2007 -- It may be our first year ever, but Jacksonville has maxed out its roster with teams for the 48 Hour Film Project, and now boasts a wait list of would-be contenders. Even though there are a few teams traveling from as far away as West Palm Beach, most of the participants are based right here on the First Coast. And the talent is undeniable.

“Sure, there are a couple of ‘dream teams’ that are well established in the film community here,” says Mac McDonald, event producer and president of the Jacksonville First Coast chapter of the FMPTA. “But this competition is anyone’s ballgame; there’s quite a crop of new talent and I know people are going to be surprised.”

One of the teams is “Psycho Film Binge,” which was initially registered by Danny Quitter, a local producer at television channel CW17.

“A number of my coworkers at the station felt it would be a lot of fun as well as a learning experience, especially since we usually produce our work in 30-second increments,” explains Quitter. “Then I happened to think of a long-time friend who was also a screenwriter [Sharon Y. Cobb] and I called her for some advice. Next thing I knew, I had a real Hollywood writer on our team and things just fell into place.”

According to Quitter, he’s hoping these professionals will have more opportunity to utilize their Hollywood skills locally if we keep bringing events like this to highlight the city. His current Psycho Film Binge teammates include: Dan Solomon, Director; Kirby Hamilton, Director of Photography; Colin Williams, 1st Assistant Director; Vera Mills, Art Director; Suzy Freeman, Costume Designer; Diane Cohen, Make-up; Jason Luque, Locations Manager; and Mary Burke,

Assistant to the Art Director. His CW17 colleagues include Chrissy Sellers, Editor; Beth Meckley, 2nd A.D. and Assistant Editor; and Steve Christian, who will either be an actor or a grip. Also from CW17 are Chris DeBelen, Graphics and Special Visual Effects, assisted by Danny Cahan; and a summer intern, Ben Pearson, who will also grip. St. Augustine's Jon Johnson will be music supervisor, working with a library of more than 1,500 songs loaned by Hollywood composer Shawn Clement.

“A preliminary casting call was also held and a number of local actors are now standing by,” adds Quitter. “We can’t wait to get started and we want to rock the whole film community and show what Jacksonville can do. Viva la 48 Hour Film Project!”

Questions about the Jacksonville 48 Hour Film Project can be directed to jacksonville@48hourfilm.com. Winners at the local level will compete at the national finals, with the potential to be named "The Best 48 Hour Film of 2007" which means the film may also be shown at venerable festivals such as Cannes and Filmopalooza. While registration may be full, teams are still looking for additional personnel to help make their films. You can also volunteer to assist at one of the events by using the email address above. For additional information, or to “Join a Jacksonville Team” visit <http://www.48hourfilm.com/jacksonville>.

48 Hour Film Project Events Open to Public

>>Friday, August 3, 5:30-7 p.m.: Kick-Off Event at The Twisted Martini (located at the Jacksonville Landing). Teams will learn the elements that must be included in their films (a line of dialogue, a prop, a character and an easily recognized Jacksonville landmark). Each team will also have to draw a genre out of a hat (comedy, drama, thriller, etc.).

>>Sunday, August 5, 6-8 p.m.: Drop-Off Event at The Twisted Martini. Come on down to cheer on the arriving teams and to count down to the 7:30 p.m.

deadline! Any film that is dropped off after 7:30:01 will not be eligible for judging and prizes, but will be shown at the big screening event.

>>Tuesday, August 7, 6-10 p.m.: Jacksonville 48 Hour Film Project Screening and Judging event at the Main Branch of the Jacksonville Public Library. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased the night of the event with cash only, or pre-purchase them online beginning Monday, July 23. To purchase tickets online with a credit or debit card please go to www.fmptajax.org and click the "Jacksonville 48 Hour Film" button to use PayPal. Seating is limited and there is a \$1 handling charge for advance purchases.

About the FMPTA

FMPTA stands for the Florida Motion Picture & Television Association, a statewide not-for-profit organization working to strengthen the economy of film, video and sound recording production within the state. It's made up of working professionals, production-related business members and associates.

Membership and monthly programs are also open to the general

public. Meetings/programs are held the second Wednesday of each month.

Membership and meeting information is available online at www.FMPTAjax.org,

or by contacting President Mac McDonald at 904-622-6800.