



The Takoma Park Film Festival

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The seventh annual Takoma Park Film Festival will take place from Feb. 26 – March 1, 2009.

In keeping with its commitment to free, accessible community-generated media, the festival opens with the documentary *Pirate Radio USA* on Thursday, February 26, 2009. The documentary takes the form of a road trip in which the narrators cross the country to document illegal radio in the U.S. and the FCC's efforts to stop broadcasters.

The festival continues its tradition of championing work directed by women with its Friday night program *Going to the Chapel?* The program includes animated and documentary work in which female filmmakers explore alternatives to traditional marriage. In **Kara Herold's** hilarious *Bachelorette, 34*, the filmmaker's mother fears that her daughter will grow old alone and attempts to match her up with a series of unsuitable men. Herold's previous documentary *Grrlyshow* screened at Sundance in 2001. The program also includes an early work by video artist **Sadie Benning**, a world premiere from award-winning animator **Paula Durette**, and the fascinating Dutch documentary *Simply Love* in which a woman tracks down her long lost boyfriend and finds that he is now a she.

Saturday's programming highlights include the program **Short Shorts**, work under five minutes from internationally acclaimed experimental media artists (such as **Thorsten Fleisch**), emerging animators (such as **Becky James** whose award-winning *I hate you don't touch me or Bat and Hat* is screening) and local youth. For the first time, the festival will include a program of work entirely in Spanish on Saturday afternoon. The program contains narrative, documentary and experimental work from Spain and Mexico received through our open submission process. Saturday night's programming includes indie and experimental shorts by artists such as **Josh Kim**, **Sabine Gruffat**, and **Alison S. M. Kobayashi**. In continuation of its commitment to small gauge film exhibition, the festival will screen work on 16mm in addition to video.

On Sunday, the festival presents four hours of independent and experimental documentaries depicting the conditions of people living in post-war or occupied territories. **Lee Wang's** documentary *God Is My Safest Bunker* details the experiences of three Filipino contract workers who risk their lives working in occupied Iraq. Wang's documentary is now in development for PBS broadcast. **Jeff Daniel Silva's** *Balkan Rhapsodies*, which premiered at MoMA last year, is an episodic video documentary culled from his travels in war-torn Serbia and Kosovo over the course of 10 years. *Sour Milk and Honey*, a documentary by Takoma Park

resident **Tarek Maassarani**, explores the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the perspective of a man with both Jewish and Muslim heritage.

Our closing night program features a locally-produced documentary, ***American Feud***, tracing the history of liberalism and conservatism in the U.S.

The Takoma Park Film Festival will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. **All screenings are free and open to the public.** The festival is sponsored by: MSAC, the City of Takoma Park, Friends of the Takoma Park MD Library, Mark's Kitchen, Savory, TPSS, Big Bad Woof, Colorlab, Sue Scott (Coldwell Banker), Robbi Kimball (Long and Foster).