

GREAT PLAINS FILM FESTIVAL 2003

Friday, August 1 through Thursday, August 14

The Great Plains Film Festival is a biennial regional venue for independent film/video artists working in the U.S. and Canadian heartland. We are committed to providing a showcase for presenting work to the public as well as to potential distributors and exhibitors from throughout the region and the nation. The Festival is nurturing a better understanding and a greater awareness of the media arts being produced in this region in terms of their aesthetic, cultural, and social values. In addition, the festival encourages and promotes film/video which accentuates and enhances appreciation of our nation's extraordinary multicultural diversity and conveys the rich vibrancy of our cultural heritage. Through presentation of panel discussions and special appearances by selected film/video makers, the festival provides a forum for artists and audience to meet. Augmenting the competitive segment of the festival will be a tribute, The Mary Riepma Ross Award, to an established film or video artist whose roots or artistic concerns are grounded in the Great Plains region and culture, who will attend the festival. Previous winners include Peter Fonda, Joan Micklin Silver, Sandy Dennis, James Coburn, John Beasley, Norman Geske, and Alexander Payne. The competition screenings will also be complemented by a special selection of films and videos by, for, and about Latino peoples, conceived to honor the richness of Latino culture by celebrating the strength of the Latino spirit and providing positive images of Latino peoples, with the hopes of building bridges of understanding amongst the diverse cultures extant in the Great Plains. Last time, a new category, Young Media Artists, was successfully added for high-school age and younger artists and it has been made permanent. This time, we are adding another new category, Screenplay, acknowledging the importance of the written word to the art of media making. A special screenwriting workshop will also be included in the festival, open to entrants in the screenplay category, focusing on the importance of the script, covering a variety of aspects on screenwriting. This entertaining and enlightening festival is a positive cultural asset for this region, providing its audience with the opportunity to experience works of art which reflect the richness and diversity of life on the Great Plains.

Eligibility

Film/videos entered must have been completed between January 2001 & June 2003. The competition is open to film or videomakers either from the Great Plains region (Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, & the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, & Saskatchewan) or whose film/video relates in content or in narrative to the Great Plains. Entries compete for top awards in their respective categories and all entries are eligible for the Rainbow Award and Nebraska Humanities Council Award. This year the Rainbow Award will be bestowed upon the entry determined by the jury to best explicate the Latino heritage of the Great Plains. We are not seeking: "how to" films/videos; industrials; promotional material; strictly informational/educational film/videos; or music videos.

Deadline: June 2, 2003

Entries must be received in our office before 5 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2003.

Entry Fee

There will be a \$30 entry fee for features and a \$20 entry fee for shorts. There is no fee for Young Media Artist category entries. **Please remit checks to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Categories

Narrative Feature (45 minutes or over)
Documentary Feature (45 minutes or over)
Narrative Short (under 45 minutes)
Documentary Short (under 45 minutes)
Made for Public Television Station
Young Media Artists (filmmakers are high school age or younger)
Screenplay

Judging

All entries initially will be reviewed by a special panel comprised of local media experts. The finalists are judged by a specially selected panel of media professionals whose background and expertise are compatible to the goals of this festival and who are sensitive to the needs of multicultural media artists.

Awards

Cash prizes of the following amounts will be awarded:

Grand Prize.....	\$3,000
Rainbow Award	\$2,500
Nebraska Humanities Council Award	\$1,500
Best Screenplay	\$1,500
Best Dramatic Feature.....	\$1,500
Best Documentary Feature.....	\$1,500
Best Dramatic Short	\$1,000
Best Documentary Short	\$1,000
Best Public Television Entry	\$1,000 or \$1,500
Young Media Artists Awards (3 @ \$500)	\$1,500

Public Screening

Entries selected for the final round of judging will be screened for the public at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center over the two-week period of the festival. Finalists and award-winners will be notified in a timely manner.

Shipping Instructions/Deadline

SEND 1/2" VHS TAPES ONLY FOR PRELIMINARY JUDGING.

Mail submissions to:

Great Plains Film Festival
Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center
313 N. 13th Street, Ste. 128
P.O. Box 880253
Lincoln, NE 68588-0253

All entries must be shipped PREPAID, INSURED, PACKED IN PROPER CONTAINERS AND RECEIVED BY JUNE 2, 2003.

Disclaimer/Liability

Every precaution will be exercised with entries; however, the festival cannot assume responsibility for damage/loss of materials submitted. Entry into the festival acknowledges agreement to all conditions. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL MATERIAL.

Return of Entries

TAPES SUBMITTED FOR PREVIEW WILL NOT BE RETURNED UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY:

1. a self-addressed container or shipping package/envelope
2. pre-paid postage to cover shipping costs. Be certain to include any special shipping instructions.

NOTE: UPS WILL NOT DELIVER TO A POST OFFICE BOX.

**For further information call 402/472-9100; FAX:402/472-2576;Email:dladely1@unl.edu; or go to the
Web Site: <http://www.TheRoss.org>**

ENTRY FORM

Deadline: June 2, 2003

Please type or print legibly. Only one work per entry form.

Film/Videomaker _____

Address _____

City _____ **state** _____ **zip** _____

Day Phone _____ **Evening Phone** _____

Federal ID/Social Security Number _____

Entry Fee (check one) _____ **\$30 Feature** _____ **\$20 Short**

(No entry fee for Youth Media Artist category)

Please remit checks to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Category (circle one only)

- 1. Dramatic Feature 2. Dramatic Short 3. Documentary Feature 4. Documentary Short
- 5. Made for Public Television 6. Youth Media Artist (open to high school students and younger)

Preview Format--please send 1/2-inch VHS tape only

Preferred Format for Public Screening (circle one)

35mm 16mm 3/4" Umatic 1/2" VHS 1/2" Beta

Title _____

Date Completed _____

Running Time _____

Credits & Synopsis (Please write a brief description suitable for program notes; attach additional page if needed.)

Relationship of the work or film/videomaker to the Great Plains? (NOTE: Entries will not be accepted unless this portion is completed)

Signature _____