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BAC ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING OF AWARD-WINNING FILMS INCLUDED IN THE 42ND BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Brooklyn, NY – March 14, 2008 – On Tuesday, April 1, 2008 from 5:30 – 8:30pm, four of the award-winning films included in the 42nd Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival (April 29 – May 9, 2008) will be shown to members of the press and the public during a special “sneak-peek” screening at the Pratt Film Society. The Best Feature Narrative film, *Superheroes*, by New York-based Director, Alan Brown and starring Dash Mihok as an Iraqi war veteran suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome and Spencer Treat Clark as a young filmmaker documenting his return to civilian life will be preceded by three short films. *Sistahs in the Name of Love*, directed by Kena Tangi Dorsey was selected for the *Jury Award, Best Film – Women of African Descent Film Festival*. Filmed in the Czech Republic, *A Day’s Work*, directed by Edward Feldman was selected as *Best Short Narrative*. *My Olympic Summer*, directed by Daniel Robin was selected as *Best Short Documentary*. These extraordinary films set a standard that is evident throughout all the films presented in the festival in 2008. **This screening is FREE and open to the public.**

Now in its 42nd year, the **Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival (April 29 – May 9, 2008)** presents more than 80 films over 8 days at 5 venues with 5 feature narratives having their World, New York, or Brooklyn premieres at the festival. Keeping with Brooklyn Arts Council’s tradition of showcasing a wide variety of high quality films directed by emerging artists from around the world, this year also includes 4 feature documentaries, 14 short documentaries, 20 short narratives, 11 animation and 13 experimental pieces, plus 4 innovative video installations by Brooklyn filmmakers. 10 videos shot and directed by youth filmmakers will also be screened. ***The complete screening schedule for the 42nd International Film Festival is attached.***

SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 5:30 – 8:30pm
Pratt Film Society, Pratt Institute, Higgins Hall Center Auditorium
61 St. James Place (corner of Lafayette Ave.) Brooklyn, New York

Please see descriptions of the films below.

PREVIEW SCREENING PROGRAM

Sistahs in the Name of Love

dir. Kena Tangi Dorsey [Director's Bio](#)

Narrative, 21mins, 2007

New York Premier

Recipient: Jury Award, Best Film – Seventh Women of African Descent Film Festival

(Also Screening Saturday, May 3, 2008 Spike Lee Screening Room, Long Island University, Brooklyn)

Nia is a professional career-driven woman while Kali, her older sister, believes that taking care of her husband and children are the most important things a woman can do. These two African American sisters have different lifestyles, but changes in each of their lives help them overcome old tensions.

A Day's Work

dir. Edward Feldman [Director's Bio](#)

Czech Republic

Narrative, 15mins, 2007

Recipient: Best Short Narrative

(Also screening Friday, May 2, 2008 Spike Lee Screening Room, Long Island University, Brooklyn)

Anna lives on the outskirts of Prague with her son Sasha in a dismal housing project. When her neighbor says she can't watch her son for the day, Anna takes him with her. Getting to work proves to be challenging and Anna arrives late to work, an audio dubbing session for an American film. What follows is something unforeseen, and gives us a unique glimpse into the depths of Anna's inner world.

My Olympic Summer

dir. Daniel Robin [Director's Bio](#)

Documentary, 13mins, 2007

Recipient: Best Short Documentary

(Also screening Thursday, May 1, 2008 Kumble Theater, Long Island University, Brooklyn)

My Olympic Summer chronicles the subterranean currents of the filmmaker's parents' young marriage, set against the historical backdrop of the taking of hostages at the Munich Olympic Games of 1972. Their story indirectly parallels and comments on the filmmaker's own recent failed marriage in this exploration of how we perceive home movies.

Superheroes

dir. Alan Brown [Director's Bio](#)

Narrative, 84mins, 2007

Recipient: Best Feature Narrative

Brooklyn Premier

(Also screening Thursday, May 1, 2008 Kumble Theater, Long Island University, Brooklyn)

Set in and around New York City in the autumn of 2005, Superheroes is the story of the relationship between Ben Patchett, a wounded Iraqi War veteran struggling to live with the psychological and physical scars of battle and Nick Jones, a young aspiring filmmaker who accompanies him to a cabin in the Catskills to document his story. A wary but ultimately tender friendship evolves between these two very different men.

For more information, visit www.brooklynartscouncil.org.

BACKGROUND

Each year, Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) hosts the Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival to give film and video artists an opportunity to show their work to critics, the media, and an enthusiastic New York audience. In operation since 1966, the festival is the longest running event of its kind in Brooklyn. For some young filmmakers, the BAC Film Festival is an important first step in launching a successful career. In 2002, a recent college graduate named **Ryan Fleck** screened a short film at the BAC Film Festival. Ryan went on to write and direct the **critically-acclaimed feature *Half Nelson*, which won the New York Film Critic's Best First Feature Award**, among others. ***Binta and the Great Idea (Binta Y La Gran Idea)*, directed by Javier Fesser**, was shown in our festival last year and was recently nominated for an **Academy Award in the "Best Live Action Short Film" category**.

Founded in 1966, Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) is a service organization dedicated to helping artists, arts organizations and community groups promote and sustain the arts. BAC is unique in the borough in that it assists artists – both amateur and professional – in all disciplines. Major areas of service include BAC's Community Arts Regrant Program, Professional Development Seminars for the Arts, Arts in Education, BAC Folk Arts, the Printmaker's Portfolio Project, Brooklyn Arts Council International Film Festival, and BAC Gallery.