

movies

The New York International Independent Film and Video Festival

The New York International Independent Film and Video Festival (NYIIFVF) proudly returns to Los Angeles September 18-28 with over one hundred features, short films, animations, and documentaries.

Founded by **Stuart Alson** in 1993, the festival has showcased works from director **Abel Ferrara**, **Cameron Diaz**, and **George Clooney**. Highlights this year include *Bitter Jester* by Maija Digiorgio, an inside glimpse at the ugly side of the comedy business (with cameos from Whoopie Goldberg, Chevy Chase, and Ray Romano); *A Gathering of Heroes: The Last Reunion*, by Brent Wilson, a startling tribute to W.W.II fighter pilots; *La Petite Morte*, by Emmanuel Schick, a controversial exposé of the French pornography industry; *Drop Dead Roses*, by Jessica Hudson; *White Rush*, by Mark Lester; *Everything's Wonderful*, by Skip Schwink; *Jack Woody*, by Gregory Fawcett; and *In the Shoes of the Dragon*, by Arnie Sveinsson, among many more new indie films from around the world.

Also on the bill are **seminars** on selling your script and getting financing for your indie film, as well as **after-parties** at premier venues like Barfly and the Sunset Room. The NYIIFVF has been recognized by the film industry as one of the leading events on the independent film circuit, making it a great place for aspiring moviemakers to get inspiration or enter their work. The festival's collection includes student work, international films, shorts, features, and experimental films.

The festival **kicks off** on September 18 with an opening night gala at the **Wyndham Bel Age Hotel** (1020 N. San Vicente Boulevard). Screenings will run through September 28 at the **Laemmle Fairfax Theater** (7907 Beverly Boulevard) and the **Raleigh Studios** (662 Van Ness Avenue). For tickets call 866-468-7619 (\$10). Screenings at 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm are free Mon-Fri. General admission tickets \$20 one-day pass, \$100 for VIP 10 day All-Access pass; call Ticketweb at 866-468-7619 or www.nyfilmvideo.com.

See Music section for information about the NYIIFVF's sister program, the **New York International Music Festival**.



Breaking new ground on the music documentary front is Joslyn Rose Lyons' hip-hop journey, *Soundz of Spirit*, with the NYIIFVF, which explores the relationship between the creative process and spirituality in hip-hop. The film explores the hip-hop culture's strengths, expressive messages concerning community, ethnicity, racism, creativity, and activism. The film includes in-depth interviews and high-powered performances from KRS-One, Jurassic 5, Planet Asia, Mystic, DJ Q-Bert, as well as poets, producers, and dancers.



AS VIRGINS FALL, a short feature, in the NYIIFVF, from Comedy Central's Natalie Barandes, stars Dominique Swain (*Lolita*) as a privileged teenage girl living in the Hollywood Hills in the late 1960's, who becomes inexplicably tied to the grim Manson Family Murders. Jennifer Coolidge (*Legally Blonde*, *American Pie*, and *The Best in Show*) breaks away from her comedic roles as a mother who has a charlish relationship with Swain's character. Oliver Hudson (*Dawson's Creek* and *The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star*) brings the film to its gritty, shocking conclusion, which is already causing a stir.