



## Independent Filmmakers Alliance Announces [Hollyshorts Film Festival](#)

5TH ANNUAL HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY ROYALTY ROPE EVENTS, TO OPEN WITH SPOTLIGHT ON CINEMATOGRAPHER DARREN LEW

Event to Showcase Three Award-Winning Short Films Shot by Lew:

"Bugcrush" Directed by Carter Smith  
"Streak" Directed by Demi Moore  
"Welcome" Directed by Kirsten Dunst

Festival Takes Place August 6-9, 2009 Royalty Rope Events To Also Host HollyShorts and Actor Jimmy Jean-Louis's ("Heroes") non profit organization Hollywood Unites for Haiti's (HUFH) special VIP celebration at The Kress

HOLLYWOOD, CA March 17, 2009---The 5th Annual HollyShorts Film Festival (August 6-9), presented by Royalty Rope Events, will open in Hollywood on Thursday, August 6, with a special spotlight on award-winning cinematographer Darren Lew ([www.darrenlew.com](http://www.darrenlew.com)). The event will showcase three of Lew's most celebrated short films: "Bugcrush," directed by Carter Smith (The Ruins), "Streak," directed by Demi Moore, and

"Welcome," directed by Kirsten Dunst. The announcement was made today by Festival Director Daniel Sol.

With a resume consisting of over 11 notable short films, as well as a reel of commercials for Madison Avenue's biggest brands, Darren Lew is one of Hollywood's fastest-rising cinematographers. Most recently Lew teamed with Ashton Kutcher's Katalyst Media and Myspace Celebrity to shoot a slew of famous personalities making pledges of service to President Barack Obama. Directed and produced by Demi Moore, the video featured Cameron Diaz, Eva Longoria Parker, Sean "Diddy" Combs, George Lopez, Ashlee Simpson, Courteney Cox, and Dakota Fanning, among many others, and was broadcast on the Oprah Winfrey show.

"On the heels of last year's festival, which featured the likes of David Lynch, Paul Haggis, Josh Brolin, Jessica Biel, and David Arquette, we are honored to spotlight one of Hollywood's fastest-rising cinematographers," said Sol. "Darren signifies what HollyShorts is all about. Continues... 5TH ANNUAL HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL/Page 2 He goes out of his way to give first-time filmmakers access to his services, and it's definitely time he gets recognized for his excellent work and efforts in this business."

The Darren Lew HollyShorts Opening Night Spotlight will include the following short films, photographed by Lew:

"Bugcrush," directed by Carter Smith (The Ruins) was the Sundance '06 Grand Jury Prize winner for Short Filmmaking and official selection Cannes Film Festival '06. "Bugcrush" stars Josh Caras (The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2), Donald Cumming (The Favor), Eleonore Hendricks (Creative Nonfiction) and David Tennent (The House is Burning). "Bugcrush" is the story of Ben (Caras), a small-town high school loner, whose fascination with Grant (Cumming), a dangerously seductive new kid, leads him into something much more sinister than he could have ever imagined.

"Streak," directed by Demi Moore (Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle, Ghost, A Few Good Men). Part of Glamour Magazine's Reel Moments project, "Streak" stars Brittany Snow (Hairspray), Rumer Willis (The House Bunny), Sarah Wright (The House Bunny) and Madeline Zima (A Cinderella Story) and tells the story of a high school senior, Baylin (Snow), who's been feeling a little claustrophobic. With graduation just around the corner, she realizes she has very little in common with her so-called best friends. One day at the gym she hits it off with free-spirited Drea (Willis). Soon Baylin's new friendship takes her on a lucky streak she won't soon forget.

"Welcome," directed by Kirsten Dunst (Spiderman, Marie Antoinette, How to Lose Friends & Alienate People), also part of Glamour's Reel Moments, stars Winona Ryder (Edward Scissorhands), John Hawkes (American Gangster) and Lexi Jourden (Two and a Half Men). The short tells how Bill (Hawkes), Cynthia (Ryder) and their daughter Alice (Jourden) move into a new house and find themselves confronted by an unexpected occupant. However, as they decide what to do, the young family learns that sometimes, living peacefully means learning how to get along with anyone-or anything....

Darren Lew is one of Hollywood's fastest-rising cinematographers. He has worked on projects with such recognizable creative artists as photographer Annie Leibovitz, director/DP Lance Acord (Marie Antoinette), art director Fabien Baron, feature director Ben Younger (Boiler Room), documentarian Albert Maysles, and Vogue photographer Steven Meisel.

His commercial work includes clients such as Nike, Lacoste, Versace, Stella McCartney, Estee Lauder, Volkswagen, Rolex, Canon, Dr. Pepper and GMC. He served as the Director of Photography on Glen Luchford's "Dark Yellow," which took home the top prize for short films at the 2008 Jackson Hole Film Festival, Jennie Livingston's short "Who's The Top," and doc "Through The Ice," Ranier Judd's short film "Remember Back, Remember When." Lew is also in production on Kirsten Dunst's and Jacob Soboroff's new documentary, "Why Vote," which is being produced by Participant Media. Continues... 5TH ANNUAL HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL/Page 3 Lew is represented by the Endeavor Agency.

The HollyShorts opening night event will also feature several additional acclaimed short film projects and awards. On Saturday, August 8, Royalty Rope Events will host the HollyShorts and actor Jimmy Jean-Louis's ("Heroes") non profit organization Hollywood Unites for Haiti's (HUFH) special VIP celebration at The Kress, a

premiere dining and entertainment venue in Hollywood. HollyShorts is currently accepting submissions for the 5th Annual Festival.

Filmmakers can submit now by visiting [www.hollyshorts.com](http://www.hollyshorts.com) or by submitting on Withoutabox directly at [www.withoutabox.com/login/4655](http://www.withoutabox.com/login/4655). All submissions must be 30 minutes or less. Categories include Live Action, Animation, Documentary and Music Video. HollyShorts also has a discounted category for student projects. Deadlines to submit U.S. and International short films for the 2009 HollyShorts Film Festival are:

April 17, 2009 - Official deadline  
May 15, 2009 - Late deadline  
June 5, 2009- Withoutabox.com extended late deadline

The 4th Annual HollyShorts Film Festival took place August 7-10, 2008 in Hollywood with top honors of Best Short Film going to "Bloom" directed Lance Larson. Larson was awarded \$2000 VFX package courtesy of Clifton Post for his next project. The Best Student Short honors went to David Jibladze, for his short film "Beholden." Jibladze took home a 5-day HVX-200, HD Camera rental package courtesy of Martini Crew Booking. Over \$25,000 in prizes were awarded. The submission link and complete information regarding eligibility and entry rules for the 2009 HollyShorts Film Festival are available on the HollyShorts Film Festival website at

[www.hollyshorts.com](http://www.hollyshorts.com). Information is also available through the HollyShorts hotline at 818-760-9897 , by email to [staff@hollyshorts.com](mailto:staff@hollyshorts.com) .

For sponsorship information, please email [admin@hollyshorts.com](mailto:admin@hollyshorts.com) with your query.

#### About HollyShorts

HollyShorts is an organization devoted to showcasing the best and brightest short films from around the globe, advancing the careers of filmmakers through screenings, networking events, and various panel and forums. The HollyShorts Film festival showcases the top short films produced 30- minutes or less. For more information, please visit [www.hollyshorts.com](http://www.hollyshorts.com). Filmmaker news available at [www.hollyshortsfilmfestival.blogspot.com](http://www.hollyshortsfilmfestival.blogspot.com).

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