

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
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FOCUS **FILM FESTIVAL**
exploring the complexities of the human experience

FOCUS Film Festival is pleased to announce the winners of the Forth Annual Short Film Competition: **FOCUS on Living with a Disability**. The winning entries will be screened on October 13, at the El Rey Theatre in Chico. Meet the winning directors at a reception following the screening.

And the winners are...

Best of Festival: FLYING ANNE (The Netherlands, Dutch/English, 2010, 21 minutes)

A Film by Catherine Van Campen

Eleven-year-old Anne is a beautiful girl with Tourette's syndrome. The longer you look the more you see her "tics" such as suddenly spinning around or licking everything. Anne sometimes finds it hard to cope with her disability, especially in school. She's afraid that others will bully her or laugh at her, so she tries to keep her tics in check, although that isn't easy. She prefers 'flying' through life, so you won't notice anything. When flying, she's at her best. (\$500 award sponsored by We Care A Lot Foundation)

Award of Excellence: IMAGINARY CIRCUMSTANCES (USA, 2011, 19 minutes)

Producer/Director: Anthony Weeks

Within the "imaginary circumstances" of fictional Hollywood TV and film, the performance of disability on screen refers to social realities. Through performance, interviews, observational footage, and commentary on archival clips, three actors with disabilities currently working in the Hollywood entertainment industry address the authentic representation of disability in the media as well as the ongoing struggle for access and inclusion. (\$300 sponsored by Union Bank)

Merit Award: LIBRARY OF DUST (USA, 2011, 17 minutes)

Directors/Producers: Robert James, Ondi Timoner; Executive Producer: Robert James

A tour of the Oregon State Hospital involving local politicians and press was conducted to uncover the deplorable conditions of the facility. What they didn't expect to find were thousands of corroded copper urns containing the cremated remains of unclaimed psychiatric patients, some dating back to the late 1800s. (\$200 award sponsored by Parent Infant Programs)

Spirit of the Festival: COMING OUT (United Kingdom, BSL/English, 2009, 6 minutes)

Director: Louis Neethling; Written by Charlie Swinbourne

A son goes to his mother with a compelling secret. Will she understand? (\$300 sponsored by Richard C. Robertson in memory of Deborah L. Rowell)

Audience Pick: To be announced at the reception.

(\$100 award sponsored by Far Northern Regional Center)

About the Judges



Ron Harrington: A Telecommunications and Film major from San Diego State University. He was a judge for Redding's first Sundial Film Festival in 2009 and the FOCUS Film Festival in 2010. He is part owner and publisher of After Five Magazine and two weekly newspapers in the north state.



Peter Hogue: A film critic for Chico News & Review, 1978 to date. He taught modern literature and cinema studies in the English department at Chico State, 1971-2006. He co-founded CSU's Film Series with Ira Latour and booked films for the series 1973-1990 and 1999-2002. Peter has published reviews and essays in Film Comment, Film Quarterly, the Velvet Light Trap, Literature/Film Quarterly, Senses of Cinema, and Seattle's Movietone News.



Debra Lucero: An award-winning journalist whose background includes eight years as a newspaper writer and editor in California, entrepreneurial experience in product development, marketing, public relations, retail and non-profit management, as well as public sector service for a Hispanic lobbyist group in Washington, D.C. A mother of three, she lives in Chico with her artist husband, Ray, and Kiki, her 22-year-old love bird.



Joan Sher: Passionate about film and active in various boards that support film including Historic Hollywood Theatre, Teaneck International Film Festival, Institute for Judaic Studies, Northwest Film Center, and co-chair of Portland Jewish Film Festival. Joan attends many major film festivals throughout the U.S. where she is an agent for FOCUS Film Festival. She is married to Paul Sher, who shares Joan's enthusiasm for film, and is the mother of three.



Theatre-in-the-Now: The Theatre-in-the-Now Troupe from the 7th Street Centre of the Arts judged "The Spirit of the Festival" award. Their decision was based on the film's relevance and impact on people with disabilities and/or those whose lives are affected by individuals with disabilities, and how the film educates or illuminates the topic for the general public.

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