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INTRODUCTION



ActionFest is back! The first and only film festival to showcase the best contemporary action movies in the world returns with a terrific selection of film premieres, special guests, engaging panels, and kick-ass parties. We'll be celebrating the unsung heroes who make action films great: the stuntmen, the technicians, and the directors — and give audiences four days of hell-raising cinema. This year we are honoring stunt professionals JJ Perry, Jack Gill, Mickey Gilbert (our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient) and presenting *Haywire* star Gina Carano with the first-ever "Chick" Norris Best Female Action Star Award.

Between the clanging swords in *Solomon Kane* and the flurry of fists in *Wu Xia*, our top-notch international films that go KA-POW include: *Bad Ass*, a world premiere starring tough guy supreme Danny Trejo, and the North American premieres of both the nail-biting heist thriller *Transit* and the much-anticipated *Dragon Eyes*, star vehicle for ActionFest Rising Star Cung Le, alongside Jean-Claude Van Damme. Free screenings of retro titles in Action Cinema 101 include *True Romance* (presenter Gina Carano's favorite film); stuntman Mickey Gilbert's Q&A about his time with Peckinpah on *The Wild Bunch*; and our first 3-D film, the wild western *Comin' At Ya!*

Our rock-'em sock-'em line-up does not come easily and many thanks go to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly around-the-clock putting it all together — we are very grateful for all their hard work.

We would also thank the community of Asheville, NC for their continued support and for believing in the festival. On behalf of everyone involved, we warmly welcome the front lines of action-packed entertainment and hope you enjoy the ride. Lights! Camera! ACTION!

Regards,

Colin Geddes, Festival Director

Bill Banowsky, Aaron Norris, Tom Quinn, and Dennis Berman, Founders

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FOUNDER & DIRECTOR BIOS

Aaron Norris, Co-Founder

Aaron Norris has been an influential force in action films and television for more than 30 years. He made his mark as a stuntman and stunt coordinator before moving into writing and producing films, including *Silent Rage*, *Lone Wolf McQuade* and *Invasion U.S.A.* Aside from directing several features (*Braddock: Missing In Action III*, *Delta Force II*, *Sidekicks*, *Top Dog*, *Platoon Leader*), Norris is well known for the incredible success of his hit CBS series *Walker, Texas Ranger*, for which he served as showrunner and executive producer, as well as directing numerous episodes. He is currently in pre-production on the action film *The Novice*.

Bill Banowsky, Co-Founder

Bill Banowsky began his career in the film industry in 2001 when he founded Magnolia Pictures, a film distribution company based in Austin, Texas and New York City. In addition to serving as CEO of Magnolia, from 2004 through 2007 he served as CEO of Landmark Theatres, the nation's largest chain devoted to art and independent film. Banowsky currently owns and operates Violet Crown Cinema, a boutique cinema in downtown Austin, and Carolina Cinemas, a North Carolina chain with theaters in Asheville, Charlotte and Raleigh, including The Carolina Asheville, host venue for ActionFest Film Festival. Prior to entering the film industry, Banowsky practiced law and served as Executive Vice-President and General Counsel of Capstar Broadcasting, Chancellor Media, and AMFM, Inc. He now serves on the board of LIN Media, a multimedia company that owns or operates 32 network-affiliated broadcast television stations.

Dennis Berman, Co-Founder

Dennis Berman is a leader in the area of effective new teaching methods, having founded Trivac and invented LIT, a patented learning program. He has founded several successful companies including Mirex Corporation, Denitech Corporation, and was a major shareholder and advisor of Voyager Expanded Learning. He has been involved with many not-for-profit boards related to

learning, such as Just for the Kids and Winston School and is currently on the boards of KERA, PBS telecast, Dallas County Community College District and The Center for BrainHealth, a part of The University of Texas at Dallas. In 2007, UT's The Berman Laboratory for Learning and Memory was established, and he has been involved in education on the Governor's Business Council.

Tom Quinn, Co-Founder

Tom Quinn is the Co-President of Radius-TWC, a new distribution label at The Weinstein Company whose acquisitions include *Bachelorette*, *Only God Forgives*, *Expatriate* and *Pusher*. Previously, Quinn spent more than seven years at Magnolia Pictures as SVP and Head of Acquisitions, and created Magnet Releasing, Magnolia's genre arm, the *Six Shooter Series*, as well as the annual *Oscar Shorts Program*. He also helped launch Drafthouse Films by partnering on their first release *Four Lions*. Over his career he's acquired and distributed more than 100 films, including *Ong Bak*, *Man On A Wire*, *The Host*, *Let The Right One In*, *Melancholia*, *13 Assassins*, *Hobo With A Shotgun*, *Trollhunter*, *Centurion* and *Monsters*. His productions include *Outrage*, *Cocaine Cowboys 2*, *Splinter* and *ABC's Of Death*. Quinn is also a programmer, having worked for Philadelphia, Atlanta and Woodstock.

Colin Geddes, Festival Director

Colin Geddes has been an international programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival since 1997 and is highly regarded for his work in the festival's Midnight Madness selection, introducing new talent and hosting the premieres of films including Takashi Miike's *Ichi The Killer*, Eli Roth's *Cabin Fever*, *Ong Bak* and *The Raid: Redemption*. He is on the advisory committee of the Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival, Austin Fantastic Fest, and has served on the juries of several international film festivals. Over the past fifteen years, Geddes has rescued abandoned 35mm prints from Toronto's closed Chinatown cinemas and garbage heaps and in March 2010 he donated 200 feature films originating from Hong Kong and Taiwan to the University of Toronto.



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ActionFest

TEAM ACTIONFEST

Founders: Aaron Norris, Bill Banowsky, Dennis Berman, Tom Quinn

Festival Director: Colin Geddes

Assistants to Festival Director: Peter Kuplowsky, Ben Ratcliffe, Daniel Webster

Programmers: Colin Geddes, Peter Kuplowsky, Matthew Kiernan

Asheville Ground Coordinators: Christopher Fryar, Patrick McCormick

Volunteer Coordinator: Patrick McCormick

Student Film Competition Programmer: David Gill

Festival Publicist: Falco PR

Festival Consultant: Matthew Kiernan

Stunt Show Coordinator: James Cann

Program Book Designer: Mary McGahren
(krop.com/marymcg)

Program Book Copy Editor: Liisa Ladouceur

Poster Artist: Kagan McLeod (infinitekungfu.com)

ActionFest 2012 Bumper Director: Sean McLeod

Mickey Gilbert Poster Artist: Brandon Mise
(bluebarnhouse.org)

Video Editor: Mike Lane

ActionFest Special Video Team: Tyler Norris, West Gibson, Cameron Banowsky

Website Maintenance: Cyril Chen

Photographers: Micah Mackenzie, CL Kunst (CLiCKs)

ActionFest Blog Editor: Ed Travis

ActionFest Blog Writers: Sanjay Rajput, Carol Borden

DCP Technician: Bill McCarley

Team Rocketman: Kinnie Gibson, Sheri Gibson, Lacey Gibson, West Gibson, Dan Schlund, Jeff Bennet

TEAM CAROLINA CINEMAS

Director of Operations: Hope Branch

Carolina Cinema Operatives of Action: Josh Stauffer, Greg Branson, Amanda Sweet, Justin Souther

THANKS

Kelly and Joshua Aaron (Arcade Asheville), ActionFlickChick.com, Nat Allister, AshVegas.com, Hadrian Belove, Jeff Brown, Matt Brown, John Cann, Franzi Charen (Asheville Grown Business Alliance), Comic Envy, Matt Cowal Tom Downing, Tommy Elliot, Travis Ginn, Katarina Gligorijevic, Jason Gorber, Andrei Gravelle, Helen Gynell (Actionmoviefreak.com), Kurt Halfyard, Ken Hanke, Harvest Records, Henco Reprographics, Candice Hensley (Mark In Clay), Neil Hermes, Buddy Joe & Gayle Hooker, Cody Hulme (Charlotte Street Computers), John Hyams, Meherdil Irani, JB Media (Justin Belleme, Tiffany Narron, John Godfrey, Leah Quintal, Sarah Benoit), Jason Janego, Scott Karp, James King, Brian Kirby (ShelfLifeClothing.com), Tony Kiss, Lane Kneedler, Knoxville Horror Film Fest, Jen Lauzon (LaZoom), Kitty Love, Stuart Manashil (CAA), Marc McCloud, Susan McGiffert, Robert Mitchell, Jay Morong, Lauren Neal, Barrett Nichols, Laurie Nichols, Brett Norensberg, Nicole Orlovitz (Blue Ridge Roller Girls), Pastimes, Lauren Patton (Za-Pow!), Rodney Perkins, Mathew Price, Sanjay Rajput, Mike Rangel, Neal Reed (The Fine Arts), Jonathan Rich, Kimberly Roney (AshevilleFM), Emily Rosenblitt, Kelly Sanders, Tim Schaller (The Wedge), Kipper Schauer, Leslie Sigmon, Justin Souther, Elizabeth Stanley & Joe Dante (TrailersFromHell.com), Tom Stern & Tony Anthony, Travis Stevens, Larnell Stovall, Wyman Tannehill (Asheville Cinema Festival & Feral Chihuahuas), Kristin Thomas, Steven Lynn Thomas, Roger Erik Tinch, Scott Varn (Harmony Interiors), Jason Wald, Jared Watson, Lewin Webb, Cory Williams (BenDes Forge), our volunteers and the many others who have helped bring ActionFest 2012 to life.

A special thanks to the following distributors:

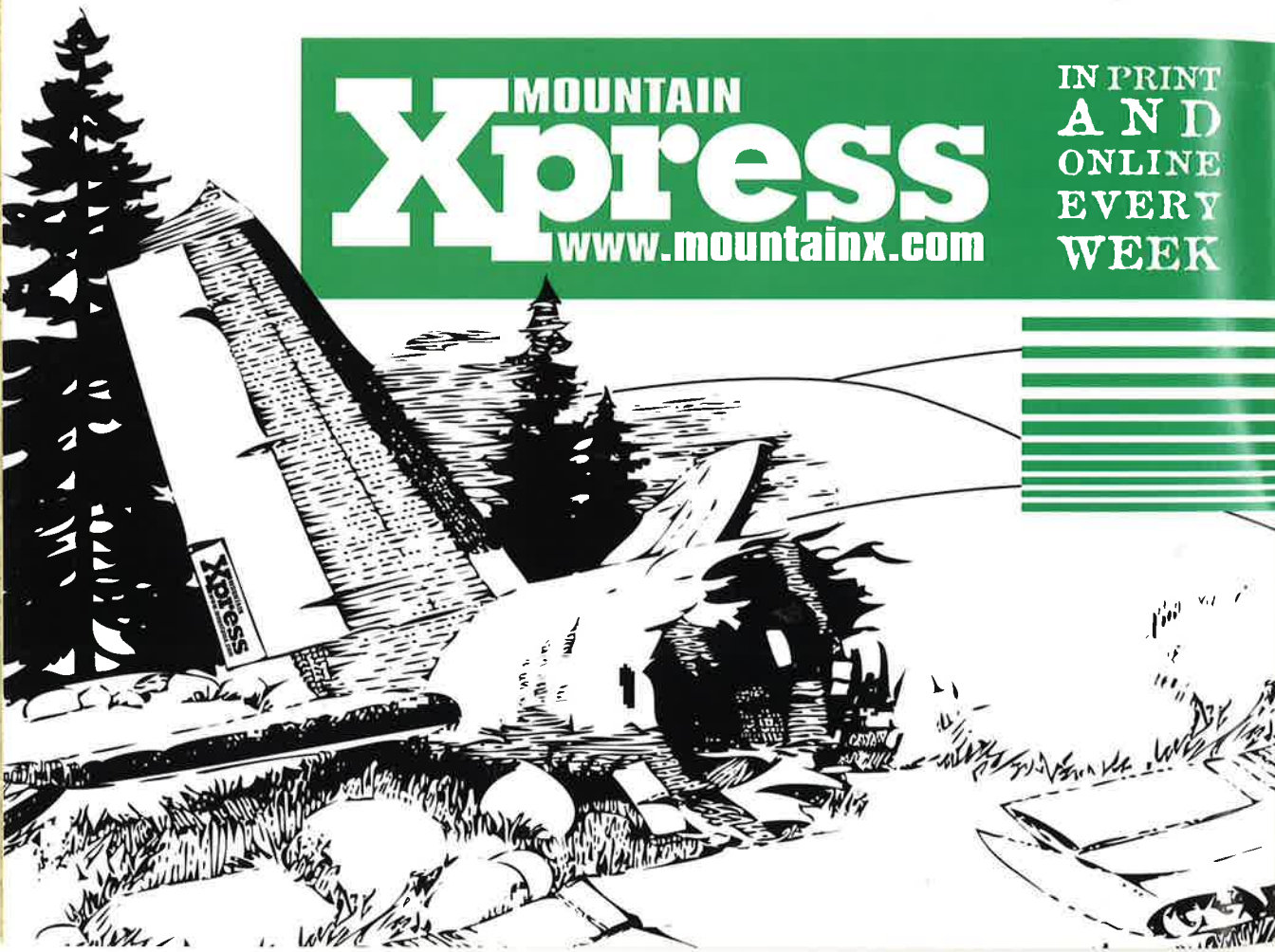
Sara Finder at After Dark Films, Sarah Turner and Sumyi Khong at Anchor Bay, Dori Begley, Eamonn Bowles, Kevin Carney, Matt Cowal, James Shapiro and Evan Husney at Draffhouse Films, Ryan Werner & Arianna Bocco at IFC, Maureen Masters at Magnolia Pictures, Greg Newman at MPI, Michael Paszt, Andrew Hunt and James Fler at Raven Banner, Ash Shah and Jim Busfield at Silver Nitrate, Lejo Pet and Staci Griesbach at Sony Pictures, Chris Johnson at Universal, Peter Van Steemburg, Doris Pfardrescher and Crystal Decker at Well Go USA, Studios, Sternco 3D, and Michael Luisi at WWE.

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March 20, 2012

Greetings action film fans!

On behalf of the City of Asheville, it is my honor to welcome you to our great city for the third annual ActionFest from Friday April 13 through Sunday April 15. This year's festival is even bigger and better than last year's with amazing opportunities to get up close and personal with stunt performances and screenings of action films all weekend.

You can watch Rocketman soar across Pack Square Park, see a special stunt show at the Carolina Asheville theatre, and enjoy meeting action film fans from across the country and around the world. We are pleased to host ActionFest, which is the first and only international film festival devoted exclusively to action cinema and its unsung heroes. The City is honored to welcome Gina Carano and Mickey Gilbert.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful time at ActionFest! Thank you for bringing this excitement to Asheville for the third year. Hope to see you next year!

Sincerely,

Terry M. Bellamy
Mayor

TMB: ted

FILM & EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY / APRIL 12

8:00 PM Rocket Man
8:30 PM Solomon Kane / **DIANA WORTHAM**
10:30 PM Opening Night Party / **ARCADE AVL**

FRIDAY / APRIL 13

12:00 PM Trailer War
1:00 PM Let the Bullets Fly
2:00 PM A Gang Story
4:00 PM The Wild Bunch / **FREE**
4:00 PM Goon
6:00 PM Wonder Women!
7:00 PM Sinners and Saints
7:30 PM I Declare War
8:00 PM Coming At Ya! 3D
9:30 PM Headhunters
9:45 PM Transit
11:45 PM Manborg / Astron-6 Shorts

SATURDAY / APRIL 14

12:00 PM The Raid / **FREE FOR PASS HOLDERS**
12:00 PM Let the Bullets Fly
12:00 PM Trailer War
12:30 PM **PANEL: Trailblazing Stuntmen / FREE**
2:00 PM **ActionFest STUNT SHOW / FREE**
2:00 PM Trailer War
3:00 PM True Romance / **FREE**
3:30 PM The Lost Bladesman
4:00 PM Manborg / Astron-6 Shorts
5:00 PM **PANEL: The Art of Fight on Film / FREE**
6:15 PM The Aggression Scale
6:15 PM The Day
6:30 PM Headhunters
8:00 PM **ActionFest AWARDS 2012**

SATURDAY / APRIL 14

9:00 PM Bad Ass
9:15 PM Dragon Eyes
9:30 PM God Bless America
10:00 PM **Awards Party / ARCADE ASHEVILLE**
11:45 PM Coming At Ya! 3D

SUNDAY / APRIL 15

12:00 PM Wu Xia
12:00 PM I Declare War
12:15 PM Bad Ass
12:15 PM **Secret Screening 1**
2:00 PM Sidekicks / **AVL PIZZA & BREWING / FREE**
2:00 PM The Lost Bladesman
2:00 PM Goon
2:15 PM The Day
4:00 PM The Aggression Scale
4:00 PM Solomon Kane
4:15 PM **Secret Screening 2**
4:15 PM God Bless America
6:00 PM Wonder Women!
7:30 PM Wu Xia / **FINE ARTS THEATER**

All films will be screened at The Carolina Asheville unless otherwise noted

TICKETS General: \$8 • Student/Senior: \$6 • Military: \$7
Group Rate (10+ tickets to a single show)*: \$7/each

ActionFest VIP BADGE Priority entry to all screenings**, parties, awards show, panels and access to VIP Lounge at The Carolina: \$100

Festival schedule, screenings and events subject to change or cancellation without notice. Complete info and terms available at festival website: www.ActionFest.com

* Group rate applies to ActionFest films only and is not valid for any non-ActionFest affiliated films screening at the cinema.

** Admission to films, parties, awards show, and panels is on a first come, first served basis until venue reaches full capacity. VIP badge holders will be seated before single ticket holders.

KICK START KIDS



Founded in 1992 by Chuck Norris, the Kickstart Kids Foundation is a non-profit organization designed to instill the young people of America with a sense of pride and self-reliance by providing free after-school martial arts training.

Currently serving over 6,500 youth in more than 40 middle schools across Texas, the foundation's mentoring program helps provide an alternative to high-risk activities related to peer pressure. The program goals are to encourage students to resolve conflicts productively, avoid participating in gangs, choose a drug-free lifestyle and remain in high school until they graduate. Through the core philosophy of martial arts, it stresses the vital importance of a healthy mind and body necessary to lead a productive life.

Over the past 20 years, Kickstart has graduated more than 70,000 students. As Norris and his wife Gena, the foundation's co-founder, have stated, "Kickstart Kids students develop the mental and physical strength to deal with the challenges they will face in the future. [We] have witnessed first-hand many of our youngsters grow into adulthood, face challenges head-on and overcome any obstacles that got in their way toward achievement. To say how proud we are of these incredible young people would be an understatement."

It is because of the nobility of Kickstart Kids' mission that ActionFest will be donating 100% of this year's proceeds to the charity, and we encourage our attendees to make individual donations. Giving a child hope

is one thing, but teaching them to find the strength inside themselves to overcome adversity is the greatest adventure of all. Visit kickstartkids.org for more information.



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North American Fantastic Film Festival Alliance (NAFFA) is comprised of professional North American festivals dedicated to presenting the best new independent and international fantasy, science fiction, horror, animation, exploitation, experimental and cult movies, as well as selecting retrospective programs, with a dedication to quality and respect for the filmmaker's work. NAFFA's official website, www.FantasticAlliance.org, aims to provide emerging and established imaginative artists with access to and Alliance of acclaimed festivals that actively support the discovery and promotion of thrilling unique independent film from all over the world. NAFFA is recognized by the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation: www.melies.org.

JURY BIOS



Eric Vespe lives on a steady diet of movies, TV, video games, BBQ and geekery in Austin, TX, while making sure his secret identity of "Quint," mild-mannered contributing editor for popular movie fanatic site *Ain't It Cool News*, is kept out of the newspapers. Oh, and he also fights for truth, justice and the American way.



Dan Guando is Senior VP of Acquisitions at The Weinstein Company, where he has worked for the last eight years. Dan has overseen the acquisition and release of *The Artist*, *Blue Valentine*, *The Tillman Story*, *Sarah's Key*, *Submarine*, *Coriolanus*, *Undefeated* and the upcoming *Bully*, *This Must Be The Place* and *The Intouchables*.



Mitch Davis is a core programmer and organizer at Montreal's Fantasia Film Festival. He has produced Karim Hussain's cult feature *Subconscious Cruelty*, directed several award-winning shorts (*Divided Into Zero*, *God's Little Girl*) and written for publications from *Fangoria* and *Rue Morgue* to *Eyeball* and *The Montreal Mirror*.



Marc McCloud is the owner of Orbit DVD and co-owner of TV Eye Video Emporium, two Asheville stores thriving in our age of streaming. Marc has also presented the Found Footage Festival and multi-media stage show *Everything is Terrible*. His long-suffering wife and two teenage children groan every time he comes home with a movie.



Borys Kit is a senior film writer for *The Hollywood Reporter*. He founded *Heat Vision*, THR's blog for genre film news, and has served on the jury of the Comic-Con International Film Festival as well as the Palm Springs International Short Festival.

He appears regularly as a film expert on American, Canadian and European TV.



Sadie can be heard on Asheville's 105.9 The Mountain shows *Mountain Mornings With Carson & Sadie* and *Everything That Rocks*. A movie buff and accidental daredevil, her favorite action movies include the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series and Tim Burton's *Batman*. Falling down is her forte and falling up stairs is her gift. Sadie: making movie theatre floors sticky since 1978.



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OPENING NIGHT: SOLOMON KANE

2009 • Director: Michael Bassett • UK / France • 104 min

Stunt Coordinators: Mark Henson, Robert Lahoda, Jaroslav Peterka

Sword Master: Richard Ryan

Cast: James Purefoy, Max von Sydow, Rachel Hurd-Wood, Jason Flemyng, Pete Postlethwaite

Meet Solomon Kane: dressed in black and armed with a rapier and flintlock pistols, blasting and slashing on a mission of pillage and plunder in war-torn North Africa in the 1600s, a true rogue whose hopelessly corrupt soul attracts the attention of the Devil himself. James Purefoy (*Ironclad*, *Rome*) as Kane has looked into the fiery pits of hell, and is ready to redeem himself by fighting evil with his blade.

Kane comes to us from the mind of Robert E. Howard, legendary creator of *Conan the Barbarian*. Director Michael J. Bassett brings this swashbuckling hero to life with more depth and intrigue than Arnie was able to deliver, in a gritty manner that makes the mud, filth and blood feel all too real. But our hell-bent hero never takes his valiant quest too seriously; *Solomon Kane* marks a glorious return to high-spirited action and adventure. — Colin Geddes

CLOSING NIGHT: WU XIA

2011 • Director: Peter Chan • Hong Kong • 114 min

Action Coordinators: Kenji Tanigaki, Hua Yan, Donnie Yen

Cast: Donnie Yen, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Jimmy Wang Yu, Kara Hui

The serenity of an idyllic village in Southwestern China is shattered when two bandits enter a merchant's shop intent on leaving with his silver. After a flurry of fists, feet and deadly blades, only one man stands to tell the tale, shy peasant Liu Jinxi (Donnie Yen). The investigation by unyielding detective Yu Baijiu (Takeshi Kaneshiro, *Chungking Express*) comes to the attention of The 72 Demons, a clan of ruthless bandits intrigued by the existence of this reluctant warrior.

In Chinese cinema, drama incorporating martial arts feuds is a classic tradition, like the American western. *Wu Xia*'s star and action director Donnie Yen (*Hero*, *Ip Man*) and director Peter Chan (*Warlords*) reinvent the glory of Hong Kong martial arts cinema from the 60s and 70s, boasting sharp production design and locations that bring to life a town in 1917 rural China that one wishes still existed today. Chan's casting of iconic Shaw Brothers kung fu stars Kara Hui and the legendary Jimmy Wang Yu (*The One-Armed Swordsman*) as two of the 72 Demons is truly inspired. (*In Chinese with English subtitles*) — Colin Geddes



REGIONAL PREMIERE

THURSDAY / April 12 / 8:00 PM / DIANA WORTHAM THEATER

SUNDAY / April 15 / 4:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

- Toronto International Film Festival
- Fantastic Fest



REGIONAL PREMIERE

SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 12:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 7:30 PM / FINE ARTS THEATER

Official Selection:

- Cannes International Film Festival



ACTIONFEST LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

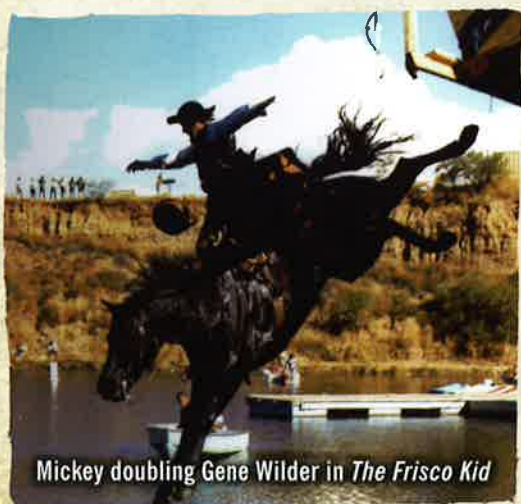
MICKEY GILBERT

Few are as undeniably welcome amongst the company of previous ActionFest Lifetime Achievement award winners Buddy Joe Hooker and Aaron Norris as Mickey Gilbert. One of the industry's most respected stuntmen, Mickey Gilbert has been a man of action his entire life, starting as the youngest

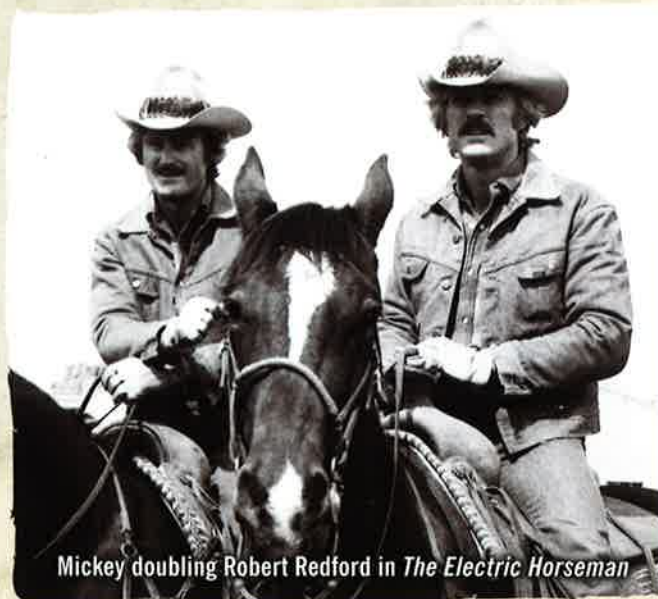


cowboy ever to win the all-around championship of the Los Angeles Coliseum Rodeo (experience that he would later bring to Sam Peckinpah's classic *Junior Bonner*).

Mickey's stunt career began in 1959 when he did uncredited stunt work on the legendary *Ben-Hur*, and 10 years later, he made his reputation by performing one of the greatest stunts in movie history, doubling for Robert Redford (with Howard Curtis for Paul Newman) on the famous cliff jump in the Academy Award-winning *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Numerous classic soon followed, including *The Wild Bunch*, *The Towering Inferno* and *Blazing Saddles*. He then went on to become a respected stunt coordinator and 2nd Unit Director, working in a wide range of genres, from horror (*Night of the Creeps*) to sci-fi (*Freejack*), and such action-based comedies as *City Slickers* to *Mystery Men*. Mickey also served both roles in the Asheville-shot classic *The Last of the Mohicans* in 1992.



Mickey doubling Gene Wilder in *The Frisco Kid*



Mickey doubling Robert Redford in *The Electric Horseman*

Mickey Gilbert is one of those stalwart stuntmen capable of performing practically every kind of stunt, whether it be horse work, car stunts, barroom brawls, because without question, he's one of the original all-round stuntmen. It is truly our honor to award Mickey Gilbert with Lifetime Achievement recognition. The man is handsome enough to double Robert Redford, rugged enough to coordinate stunts on any set, and smart enough to teach us all a thing or two about the movies. Thanks for the memories, Mickey!



PANEL TRAILBLAZING STUNTMEN: MICKEY GILBERT & JACK GILL SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 12:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE / FREE

Both the recipients our Lifetime Achievement Award Mickey Gilbert, and our Man of Action, Jack Gill, have done some remarkable things in their journeys as stuntmen and stunt coordinators from leaping from exploding fireballs to turning cars into airborne missiles. Now they'll be tackling your questions in an up close and personal discussion along with clips of some of their thrilling career highlights.

THE WILD BUNCH

1969 • Director: Sam Peckinpah • USA • 145 min

Stunt Coordinator: Archie Butler


Cast: William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Warren Oates, Robert Ryan

Sam Peckinpah's *The Wild Bunch* is one of the most spectacular and violent films ever made. Pike Bishop (William Holden) heads a gang of killers and robbers, including Dutch Engstrom (Ernest Borgnine), Freddie Sykes (Edmond O'Brien), Tector Gorch (Ben Johnson), and Lyle Gorch (Warren Oates). An ex-con and former member of Bishop's gang (Robert Ryan) is hired by a railroad; his task is to kill Bishop within 30 days or go back to prison. Peckinpah's realistic and unrestrained portrayal of violence helped establish the visual language of modern action cinema — the final scene is an epically staged massacre that is still unmatched. — Rodney Perkins



FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 4:00 PM / FREE / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Introduction and Q&A with Mickey Gilbert



No stuntmen
were harmed
in the making of this ad.
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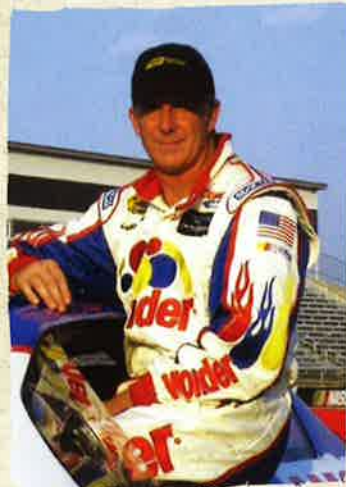
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ActionFest, the “film festival with a body count,” is partnering with The Grove Park Inn to create a very special drawing intended to celebrate stuntmen and their craft. Enter to win a “Vacation Like a Stuntman” package for two. Details will be available at ActionFest and at ActionFest.com. And rest assured, no guests will be set on fire or exploded during your stay.

 Reserve today | GroveParkInn.com | 800.438.5800 

ACTIONFEST MAN OF ACTION AWARD JACK GILL



This year ActionFest honors career stunt professional Jack Gill with the Man of Action Award. Gill takes action on and off screen, both as a thrilling stunt professional and as an advocate for the creation of a category at the Oscars for stunt men and women.

Jack Gill got his start in the film business through a chance encounter with a legend. While racing motocross professionally, Gill met Hal Needham, who invited him to visit the set of *Hooper* and then took the up-and-comer under his wing. Because of his racing experience, Jack quickly became known as a car guy and gained steady work doing car stunts on such classic series as *The Dukes of Hazzard*, *The Fall Guy* and *Knight Rider*. Today Jack is primarily a stunt coordinator and a 2nd Unit Director on such films as *Wild Hogs* and last year's smash hit *Fast Five*.

Amidst all the major hit films that Jack has worked on, he has also become a member of the Screen Actors Guild, the Directors Guild of America, is a former President of Stunts Unlimited, and a member of the Academy of Motion Arts and Sciences. In the past two decades Jack has worked tirelessly as the spokesperson on behalf of the stunt community lobbying that the Academy should create a stunt category at the Oscars. One of Gill's personal missions is to bring the recognition to the stunt community that is so well deserved.

For the quality of his work and his advocacy for the stunt community, we are honored that Jack Gill is accepting the Man of Action Award at ActionFest 2012!



Knight Rider



The Dukes of Hazzard



The Dukes of Hazzard



THE AMAZING ACTIONFEST STUNT SHOW

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 2:00 PM
TOTALLY FREE!

Join acclaimed stunt coordinator John Cann and his incredible stunt team as they bring awesome live stunts from Hollywood to Asheville with some of the top stuntmen in the movie business.

John Cann is president and CEO of Action P.A.C. Stunts, L.L.C., and a veteran of the entertainment industry for over 25 years. He has appeared in over 100 feature films and television shows as an actor and/or stunt performer. John's specialties include stunt coordination, high falls, air rams, fire gags, stunt driving, fights, swordplay, rigging and more. Come out to see John and his team of death-defying daredevils show off the skills that make action stars look so cool onscreen.

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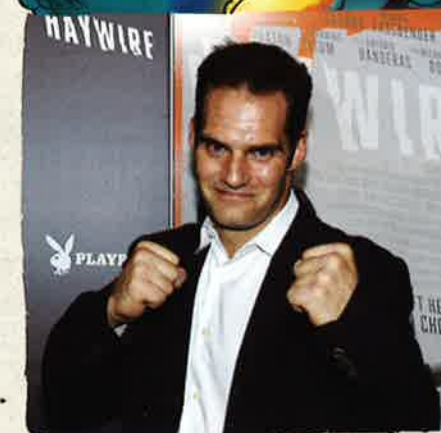
FIGHT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR J.J. PERRY

J.J. Perry is a fighter. And we don't mean that in the metaphorical, "He'll pull through a tough situation" kind of way. We mean he will *fight* you. Starting martial arts in 1975, he became such an accomplished young fighter that he was able to enter the US Army under the Elite Athlete Program. During his five years of service, Perry spent time in Korea, where he believes his martial arts skills really leapt to the next level — not to mention his language skills, since he learned to speak Korean!

In 1990, Perry headed to Los Angeles, where he began stunt doubling on TV shows such as *Vanishing Son* and *Renegade*. Eight years into his career as a stuntman Perry joined *Walker, Texas Ranger*, which he credits for his first opportunity to choreograph fights and stunts, and direct second unit.

With his new skill set, Perry graduated to bigger projects, from stunt work on *Mortal Kombat* films to choreographing ActionFest 2010's Best Director Award-winner Isaac Florentine's *Undisputed II: Last Man Standing*. Stunt work on huge hits like *Iron Man* and *Avatar* followed, but 2011 was the year of J.J. Perry's ascension, stunt coordinating the MMA action-drama *Warrior* and the fight choreography for *Haywire*, starring Gina Carano.

The future is only looking up for the man, having already completed *Safe* with Jason Statham, *Get The Gringo* with Mel Gibson and *Bullet To The Head* with Sly Stallone. If those credits don't smack you around enough, he is the fight choreographer on Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*! WHAPP! From the looks of things we'll be seeing a lot more of his action handiwork. And so, we are happy to honor J.J. Perry with the Fight Director of the Year Award at ActionFest 2012! You have earned it, J.J.!



PANEL WHAPP! THE ART OF FIGHT ON FILM
SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 5:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE / FREE

There is a lot more to shooting a great martial arts scene than just placing two actors in front of each other and yelling, "FIGHT"! Learn the ins and outs of depicting effective and realistic fisticuffs for the camera in this exciting panel discussion that includes ActionFest Fight Director of the Year J.J. Perry (*Warrior*, *Haywire*), "Chick" Norris Female Action Star Gina Carano (*Haywire*) and Rising Star Cung Le (*Dragon Eyes*).

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**"CHICK" NORRIS
BEST FEMALE ACTION STAR AWARD
GINA CARANO**

We're in love with Gina Carano. Honestly, who isn't? She personifies how an intelligent, strong-willed, determined person can, through strength, endurance and hard work, make themselves into one of the world's best athletes and then change course to become one of the strongest new performers to hit the silver screen in some time.

Gina is coming to ActionFest as the recipient of our first-ever Chick Norris-award for Best Female Action Star, based on her breakthrough performance in director Steven Soderbergh's *Haywire*. Female action stars are still pretty uncommon, despite such rising stars as Trish Stratus (*Bounty Hunters*) and *Death Proof*'s Zoe Bell. Most women in action films are either girlfriends or partners to be killed off so the hero can exact revenge, but with *Haywire*, Gina creates a heroine who's compelling from frame one and completely believable throughout. Soderbergh and screenwriter Lem Dobbs put her through situations that are as hair-raising as in any Bond film, but are totally grounded in reality (no CGI!) and showcase Gina's great fighting skills and stunt work to excellent effect. But the fact that she more than holds her own against such big screen heavyweights as Michael Fassbender, Ewan McGregor, Michael Douglas and Channing Tatum proves that she's got what it takes as a natural screen presence.

Gina Carano is not just the next big action star; she's a major movie star in the making. It's going to be exciting to see where she goes from here, and we can't wait to see what she does next.



TRUE ROMANCE

1993 • Director: Tony Scott • USA • 120 min

Stunt Coordinator: Charlie Picerni

Cast: Christian Slater, Patricia Arquette, Dennis Hopper

When we asked Gina Carano, recipient of ActionFest's inaugural Chick Norris Best Female Action Star Award, to program her favorite action movie for this year's fest, we thought it might be a martial arts or fighting film. Imagine our surprise when she picked *True Romance*, the Quentin Tarantino-scripted, Tony Scott-directed action/romance/comedy classic from 1993. Of the many great films that Tarantino and Scott have given us over the years, *True Romance* still stands as a one-of-a-kind that's worth seeing again and again. Leave it to Gina Carano to remind us that action movies can be funny, offbeat and romantic and still be awesome. Cool, Gina. — Matthew Kiernan



SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 3:00 PM / FREE / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Introduction by Gina Carano

asheville film society est. 2010

The Asheville Film Society offers access to a wide array of films from every era and every genre, some of which might not otherwise be seen. All this is via our free screenings, open to everyone, every Tuesday at 8 at The Carolina Asheville.

A \$10 annual membership helps aid this, and offers a wide range of benefits, including free admission to select films before they open to the public, discounts on admission to The Carolina, and deals at other local businesses. We thank you for your support as we continue to honor film in Asheville.

ashevillefilm.org



RIISING ACTION STAR CUNG LE

To say that we're excited to have Cung Le here at ActionFest this year is a bit of an understatement. This is someone we've been following very closely over the years, and we're thrilled to bring him to ActionFest to give him our Rising Action Star award and host the North American premiere of his first starring role in *Dragon Eyes*.

It seems like Cung Le was literally born into a world of action. Born in Saigon, Vietnam three days before the city's fall, Cung Le fled the country with his mother on a helicopter under heavy gunfire. Raised in San Jose, California, he started his training in Taekwondo at the age of 10, which lead to a college wrestling career and his undefeated stint as a professional kick-boxer with a 17-0 record. From here he entered the world of MMA, where he has amassed an impressive 7-2 record over years, starting with Strikeforce and moving on to the UFC.

But now, Le has set his sights on the world of film and we're psyched beyond belief. In a short period of time he's taken on such fighters as John Foo in *Tekken*, Channing Tatum in *Fighting*, and Wu Xia's Donnie Yen in *Bodyguards and Assassins*, along with acting alongside such legends as Chuck Norris on *Walker, Texas Ranger* and his *Dragon Eyes* co-star Jean Claude Van Damme. 2012 will prove to be a pivotal year for Le, with supporting roles in two of the most anticipated films of the year, Wong Kar-Wai's *The Grandmasters* and The RZA's *The Man with the Iron Fist*.

The rest of the world is about to wake up to the amazing Cung Le, and you get to say you saw him here first at ActionFest!



DRAGON EYES

2012 • Director: John Hyams • USA • 91 min

Stunt Coordinator: Larnell Stovall

Action Coordinator: Scott Sheeley

Fight Coordinator: Cung Le

Cast: Cung Le, Jean-Claude Van Damme, Peter Weller

In New Orleans, a mysterious out-of-towner arrives to save a desperate community terrorized by violence and corruption. This "stranger-meets-town, stranger-then-cleans-up-town-by-beating-its-criminals-senseless" formula proves ideal for the barrage of brutal ass-kickery that director John Hyams (son of Peter Hyams of *Outland*, *Timecop*) delivers on this slick martial-arts flick. Pitting talented up-and-comer Cung Le (*Bodyguards and Assassins*) against wave after wave of thugs led by a hilarious and almost unrecognizably manic Peter Weller (*Robocop* himself), Hyams does his action movie ancestry proud. Featuring Jean-Claude Van Damme as an imprisoned martial arts master with penchant for dispensing both wisdom and high-kicks.

— Peter Kuplowsky



SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 9:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

"...pound for pound, one of the most exciting fighters of all time."

— Inside Kung Fu

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THE AGGRESSION SCALE

2012 • Director: Steven C. Miller • USA • 85 min

Stunt Coordinator: George P. Wilbur

Cast: Ray Wise, Dana Ashbrook, Derek Mears

Many reviews out of SXSW have described *The Aggression Scale* as *Home Alone* with a psychotic kid as its lead, and that's not far off the mark. Imagine if *3 Ninjas* had an R rating for violence and two less ninjas and that gives you an idea of the surprises in store, but what really works for *The Aggression Scale* is how it doesn't treat this idea as a joke. It's a straight-up action film with a couple of kick-ass kids, terrorized by a team of killers out to find \$500,000 in stolen cash that one of their parents might have stolen from a gangster, as the heroes — got a problem with that? Better not. There's also a pretty cool cast of villains, led by Dana Ashbrook and Ray Wise (reunited from *Twin Peaks*) and featuring *Friday The 13th*'s most recent Jason, Derek Mears, plus some of most nasty and creative kills in recent movie memory. And while it's not a movie for kids by any means, it does prove that young people can make exciting action heroes. Tough, brutal but also wicked fun, *The Aggression Scale* rates high for action. — *Matthew Kiernan*



REGIONAL PREMIERE

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 6:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 4:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

• **SXSW**

BAD ASS

2012 • Director: Craig Moss • USA • 90 min

Stunt Coordinator: Mikal Kartvedt

Cast: Danny Trejo, Ron Perlman, Charles S. Dutton

Fans of action cinema know that there is one man who stands for all that's right in the movies that we cherish so much and we love him because he is such a "bad ass." Now he steps up to prove it in the world premiere of this self-titled action thriller and that man is... Danny Trejo.

Hot off the success of *Machete* (which we at ActionFest 2011 dubbed "Action Film of the Year"), he switches from cutting out someone's intestine and using it as a rope to descend down the face of a building to... cargo shorts and a fanny pack? In *Bad Ass*, we find our Trejo with a graying beard as Vietnam vet Frank Vega who, after being shunned by society for nearly 40 years, becomes an instant celebrity when he smacks around some skinheads on a city bus and footage of the incident goes viral, earning him the nickname "Bad Ass." When his best friend is murdered—and police seem unwilling to help—Vega takes his new nickname to the extreme against corrupt cops and a crooked mayor (Ron Perlman) and his enforcer (Charles S. Dutton). Played with a wink in-between smackdowns, Trejo channels some of Michael Caine from *Harry Brown* and Charles Bronson from *Death Wish* and dishes out old-school cinema justice. — *Colin Geddes*



WORLD PREMIERE

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 9:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 12:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE



COMIN' AT YA! 3D

1981 • Director: Ferdinando Baldi • Italy/Spain/USA • 90 min

Cast: Tony Anthony, Gene Quintano, Victoria Abril, Ricardo Palacios, Lewis Gordon

In 1981, armed with exclusively developed, cutting-edge 3D technology, producer/actor Tony Anthony (best known for his starring roles in spaghetti westerns like *Blindman*, "The Stranger" film series and action/adventure fare including *Treasure of the Four Crowns*) enlisted Italian genre film veteran Ferdinando Baldi (*Django Sees Red*) to realize the first ever 3D spaghetti western. Now *Comin' At Ya!* returns for its 30th anniversary as a reinvented classic 3D film in stunning high-definition, utilizing state-of-the-art RealD 3D® technology.

The grindhouse-fueled tale follows a vengeful gunslinger (Anthony) on a bloody path when his beautiful fiancée (young Spanish heartthrob Victoria Abril) is abducted by desperadoes. Disappointed at the lack of flaming arrows, bats or yo-yos popping into your face during *Avatar*? *Comin' At Ya!* delivers that...and more! This is the 3D movie that does exactly what you want a 3D movie to do: it hits you with a ludicrous barrage of flying fists, guys smashing through windows, snakes springing into your lap and old-school 3D thrills. One of the prime examples of 3Dsploitation and a must for connoisseurs of action.

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 8:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 11:45 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

"A wild, over the top shock western designed to batter your senses... full of blood, bats, boobs, style, majestic music and boasting some of the greatest 3D effects that float and fly off the screen and hit you in the face!"

— Chris Alexander, *Fangoria*



THE DAY

2011 • Director: Douglas Aarniokoski • USA/Canada • 90 min

Stunt Coordinator: Layton Morrison

Cast: Shawn Ashmore, Ashley Bell, Shannyn Sossamon, Dominic Monaghan

Everyone loves a post-apocalyptic survivor story. In this tight and relentless film, a group of ragtag travelers armed with shotguns, axes and machetes walks the back roads of a ravaged landscape, until one of their team becomes ill and they are forced to seek shelter in an abandoned farmhouse. Rest is not an option as they take stock of their ammunition supply. The tightly knit group is united by clear-headed leader Rick (Dominic Monaghan of *Lost* and *Lord of the Rings*), but has also recently accepted a silent and defiant newcomer, Mary (Ashley Bell, *The Last Exorcism*), into the fold. Soon, the exhausted survivors will have to make a stand against a brutal world that they can no longer run from.

The world of *The Day* is all shades of gray - no easy answers, no obvious good guys or bad guys, just people struggling to survive under harsh circumstances. Choose your weapon and hunker down for a fight that could be humanity's last battle. — Colin Geddes

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 6:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 2:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

- Toronto International Film Festival
- Fantastic Fest



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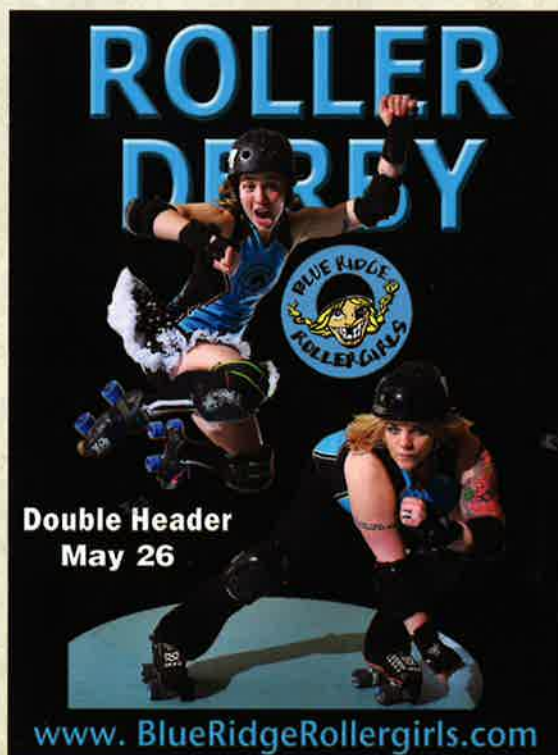
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A GANG STORY

2011 • Director: Olivier Marchal • France • 102 min

Stunt Coordinators: Oumar Diaoure, Alain Figlarz
Cast: Gérard Lanvin, Tchéky Karyo, Daniel Duval

Based on former gangster Edmond Vidal's autobiography, *A Gang Story* looks back at one of France's most notorious crime syndicates, Le Gang des Lyonnais. The leader of the gang, a proud and dignified man from another era, Vidal (Gérard Lanvin from *Mesrine*, *Point Blank*) is now in his sixties but still believes in values and honor. Retired from "the business" and wishing to lead a peaceful life, Vidal is asked to help break his old friend and partner Serge (Tchéky Karyo from *Kiss of the Dragon*, *La Femme Nikita*) out of prison.

A Gang Story takes on an increasingly tragic air, as we watch characters embark on actions they know will probably lead to their own destruction. Just as *The Godfather* both drew on and diverged from earlier gangster films, so too director Olivier Marchal, himself a former police officer, evokes American examples of the genre to highlight their differences with French criminal life. Marchal has made a solid return to gangster films in the vein of *The Town* and *Heat*, but in the French style, of course. (In French with English subtitles)



FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 2:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

GOD BLESS AMERICA

2011 • Director: Bobcat Goldthwait • USA • 99 min

Stunt Coordinator: Peewee Piemonte

Cast: Joel Murray, Tara Lynne Barr, Mackenzie Brooke Smith

Frank (Joel Murray) has had it. On a mission to rid society of its most repellent citizens (think ignorant neighbors, idiot co-workers and reality TV "stars"), he is joined by an unlikely ally in 16-year-old Roxy (Tara Lynn Barr). And so this platonic killer duo of a terminally ill 45-year-old and a hyperactive teenager embark on a road trip with a body count.

While most will recognize Bobcat Goldthwait as a stand-up comedian, he has also made a name as a director and writer with a knack for truly subversive black humour (three cheers for *Shakes the Clown*). With *God Bless America*, Bobcat is everything but subtle. Character actor Joel Murray puts a comedic twist on the angry Everyman and Tara Lynn Barr is full of a spittfire charm as she delivers sermons on just who deserves to get the barrel end of their justice. Get ready to hit the road with the Bonnie & Clyde of the 21st Century. — Colin Geddes



SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 9:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
 SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 4:15 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

- Toronto International Film Festival
- SXSW



GOON

2012 • Director: Michael Dowse • Canada • 92 min

Stunt & Fight Coordinator: Steve Lucescu

Cast: Seann William Scott, Jay Baruchel, Liev Schreiber, Eugene Levy

"Meet Doug, The Nicest Guy You'll Ever Fight." An outcast from his brainy family, bouncer Doug Glatt (Seann William Scott) finds fame when he joins a local hockey team and beats down his opponents, much to the delight of fans. In his new role as enforcer (whose role is to protect teammates and act as a deterrent by hitting or fighting opposing players who take liberties with teammates), Doug "The Thug" leads a team of under performing misfits to semi-pro hockey glory, beating the crap out of everything that stands in his way, until he meets his idol, veteran enforcer Ross "The Boss" Rhea (Liev Schreiber).

One of the most unexpected action comedies in recent years, *Goon* is able to spin a strong emotional core about a hopeless outcast who can only get by in the world with his fists thanks to a rather surprising performance by Scott. Inspired by a book based on real-life infamous NHL ice brawls and written by actor-writer Jay Baruchel (who plays Doug's foul-mouthed bleacher cussing pal Pat) and directed Michael Dowse, (the man who gave the world the mullet cult classic *Fubar*) *Goon* perfectly manages to balance the icy fisticuffs and guffaws.

— Colin Geddes

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 4:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 2:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

- *Toronto International Film Festival*
- *Fantastic Fest*



HEADHUNTERS

2011 • Director: Morten Tyldum • Sweden • 100 min

Stunt Coordinator: Deni Jordan

Cast: Aksel Hennie, Synnøve Macody Lund, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

Anyone who has set foot in a bookstore in the last couple of years knows that Scandinavian crime thrillers are hot, thanks in great part to the late Stig Larson and his tattooed lady friend. Popular as Larson's novels may be, those who truly appreciate a well-written yarn know to turn to Norwegian Jo Nesbø, author of the *Harry Hole* series and Edgar Award-nominated writer of some of the best crime fiction around today. *Headhunters* is the first Nesbø book to make it to the big screen, and it proves that his work is a perfect match for the movies. This twisted tale of a corporate headhunter who moonlights as a professional art thief provides enough action, suspense, surprises and all-out fun to remind us there's a reason these Scandinavian authors are so popular: they really know how to tell a story and entertain an audience, something *Headhunters* does with exceptional skill. (In Swedish with English subtitles)

— Matthew Kiernan

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 9:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 6:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE



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I DECLARE WAR

2012 • Directors: Jason Lapeyre, Robert Wilson • Canada • 91 min

Stunt Coordinators: John Stead, Steve Wiltshire
Cast: Gage Munro, Siam Yu, Michael Friend, Aidan Gouveia, Mackenzie Munro

Every day after school, two groups of thirteen-year old friends play "war" in a local forest. They make their own guns out of sticks or old toys, anything they can find. But in their minds these makeshift weapons are the real thing. AK-47s. Grenade launchers. Even a pair of eyes that shoot lasers. It's all fun and games, until one afternoon when things gets a little out of hand as bullies, pre-teen crushes, and popularity contests all come into play on the battlefield. No Disney G-rated family fun here as as our heroes speak like real kids and brandish heavy artillery. Their friendships, loyalties and the tactics of their "game" are tested to the ultimate degree and, like their adult counterparts in the "real" world, find that victory and defeat are celebrated and suffered in equal proportion. With cinematic groundings in *Stand By Me* meets *Full Metal Jacket* and overtones of *Lord of the Flies*, *I Declare War* is certainly a film that is bound to spark topical conversation.

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 7:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
 SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 12:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE



LET THE BULLETS FLY

2010 • Director: Jiang Wen • Hong Kong • 132 min

Action Choreographers: Chung Chi Li, Ailen Sit
Cast: Chow Yun Fat, Jiang Wen, Ge You, Carina Lau

First things first: this movie is a hell of a lot of fun. Second thing: while unquestionably loaded with action, *Let The Bullets Fly* is also a comedy, and a densely packed one, at that. Paying close attention is very much advised, because if you miss one little detail, you might lose place. But don't let that scare you off, because *Let The Bullets Fly* is easily one of the most entertaining movies to come out of China in a long time. It overtook *Avatar* as the highest-grossing film in that country's history, showing that Chinese filmmakers can provide big entertainment that outdoes Hollywood.

Jiang Wen stars as Pocky Zhang, a notorious bandit whose latest robbery has him stealing the role of Governor of a small province from conman Ge You. But his dream of taking the money and running becomes harder than he thinks, thanks to a ruthless crime lord played by the legendary Chow Yun Fat. The stage is then set for a battle of wits between three criminals, fighting for control of a small town that could be worth millions. We don't want to reveal any more for fear of spoiling it, so we'll just say that yes, the bullets do fly in *Let The Bullets Fly*, but so do the laughs. — Matthew Kiernan

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 1:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
 SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 12:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

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THE LOST BLADESMAN

2012 • Directors: Felix Chong, Alan Mak • China/Hong Kong • 109 min

Stunt Coordinators: Donnie Yen, Ji-Dan, Yan Hua

Cast: Donnie Yen, Jiang Wen, Betty Sun Li

Donnie Yen has been kicking ass in movies for nearly 30 years, yet as he approaches 50 he's just hitting his stride. Star of some of the best action films of the last decade (including ActionFest 2010 selection *14 Blades* and this year's closing night film, *Wu Xia*) he's got another winner on his hands with *The Lost Bladesman*, a grandiose epic that recalls the great Shaw Brothers swordplay films of the 70s.

Adapted from the classic Chinese tale *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, the film sees Yen as legendary Guan Yu, whose journey of the five passes (and the slaying of six generals) played a pivotal role in the collapse of the Han dynasty. As directed by Alan Mak and Felix Chong (whose *Infernal Affairs* was remade in the US as *The Departed*), *The Lost Bladesman* does a beautiful job of telling its story of honor, loyalty and revenge with visual flair and jaw-dropping action. It also provides a fine showcase for Donnie Yen, the actor, proving once and again that he's a strong presence beyond action. One of the unquestionable highlights of ActionFest 2012. (In Chinese with English subtitles) — *Matthew Kiernan*



NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 3:30 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 2:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Official Selection:

- *Terracotta Far East Film Festival*
- *Udine Far East Film Festival*

MANBORG

2011 • Director: Steven Kostanski • Canada • 75 min

Cast: Adam Brooks, Adam Camara, Jeremy Gillespie

The armies of hell have taken over the Earth, and all that stands in the way of the villainous Count Draculon and his total subjugation of humanity is a motley lot of misfits seemingly torn from the pantheon of 80s schlock genre-cinema. There's an Australian punk, a knife-wielding anime chick, a kung-fu master (voiced with deliriously pitch-perfect stoicism by Kyle Herbert, the narrator from *Dragon Ball Z*), and of course the titular Manborg, a literal kind of cinematic Frankenstein, both emblematic of pulp sci-fi as obscure as Charles Band's *Eliminators* and as broad as *Robocop* and *The Terminator*.

The master of ceremonies to this cacophony of laser blasts and comic book ultra-violence is film collective Astron-6 (*Father's Day*) special effects prodigy Steven Kostanski, who deftly juggles co-writing, editing and directing duties with the ambitious creation of an extraordinary barrage of elaborate miniatures, iconic costumes and delirious stop-motion creatures that would have Harryhausen and Tippett try to high-five the ghost of David W. Allen out of sheer enthusiasm. Kostanski's universe remains unmistakably original, his voice unquestionably unique and his talent impossible to deny. — *Peter Kuplowsky*



REGIONAL PREMIERE

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 11:45 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 4:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

“Enjoyably ridiculous!” — *Variety*

BONUS! Two hot shorts by Astron-6!

- *Gore Blade - Duel of the Titans*
- *Lazer Ghosts 2: Return to Laser Cove*



SATURDAY / APRIL 14 / 12:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FREE SCREENING FOR BADGE HOLDERS!

Winner of the Midnight Madness
Audience Choice Award:
Toronto International Film Festival

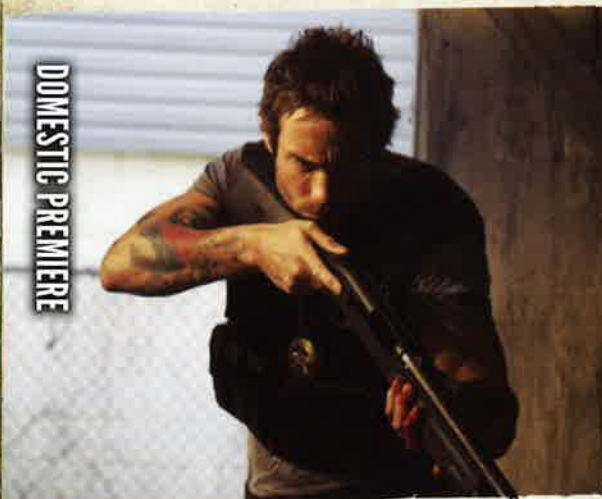
THE RAID

2011 • Director: Gareth Evans • Indonesia • 101 min

Fight Coordinators: Yayan Ruhian, Iko Uwais
Cast: Iko Uwais, Joe Taslim, Ananda George, Ray Sahetapy

Imagine *Die Hard* fused with *Assault On Precinct 13* played out as a high-octane martial arts picture from Indonesia. ActionFest fans first became aware of star Iko Uwais and director Gareth Evans when *Merantau* won Best Picture in 2010, but until then, Western film fans had never even heard about the traditional Indonesian combat style of Silat, let alone seen a martial arts flick from that part of the world. Now the dynamic duo of Evans and Uwais are back with *The Raid*.

Deep in Jakarta's slums lies an impenetrable gangster safe house, considered untouchable to even the bravest of police. Cloaked under the cover of pre-dawn darkness, an elite swat team is tasked with a raid to take down a notorious drug lord. But when the building's lights are cut and all the exits blocked, the unit must fight their way out through the city's worst. Prepare for innovative kills and action gags in this relentless, high-stakes Silat showdown. (*In Indonesian with English subtitles*) —Colin Geddes



FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 7:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

Director William Kaufman and
Star Tom Berenger in attendance!

SINNERS AND SAINTS

2011 • Director: William Kaufman • USA • 104 min

Fight Choreographer: Ron Balicki
Cast: Mark Strong, Tom Berenger, Jurgen Prochnow, Method Man, Sean Patrick Flannery

"This is New Orleans, you ain't seen nothin' yet." So sayeth Method Man in director William Kaufman's *Sinners and Saints*, a down-and-dirty action flick that nods to classics from *Lethal Weapon* and *Heat*. Detective Sean Riley (Mark Strong of *Black Hawk Down* and *The Fast and the Furious*) is a stone cold detective in the post-Katrina (and borderline post-apocalyptic) city. When charred corpses turn up across the underbelly of the city, Riley teams up with a new partner to crack the case. But very quickly the case gets red hot, with the city's biggest drug dealer and a team of elite mercenaries going head-to-head against Riley and his men.

Inducting Strong into heavy-hitting leading man status and with a cast featuring Tom Berenger, Jurgen Prochnow, Method Man and Sean Patrick Flannery, there is plenty of recognizable talent to either kill or be killed. Kaufman (director of the breakout indie hits *The Prodigy* and *The Hit List*) builds a brutal world filled with tightly choreographed and realistically staged action on an independent budget, from elaborate shoot-outs to brutal hand-to-hand combat. —Ed Travis



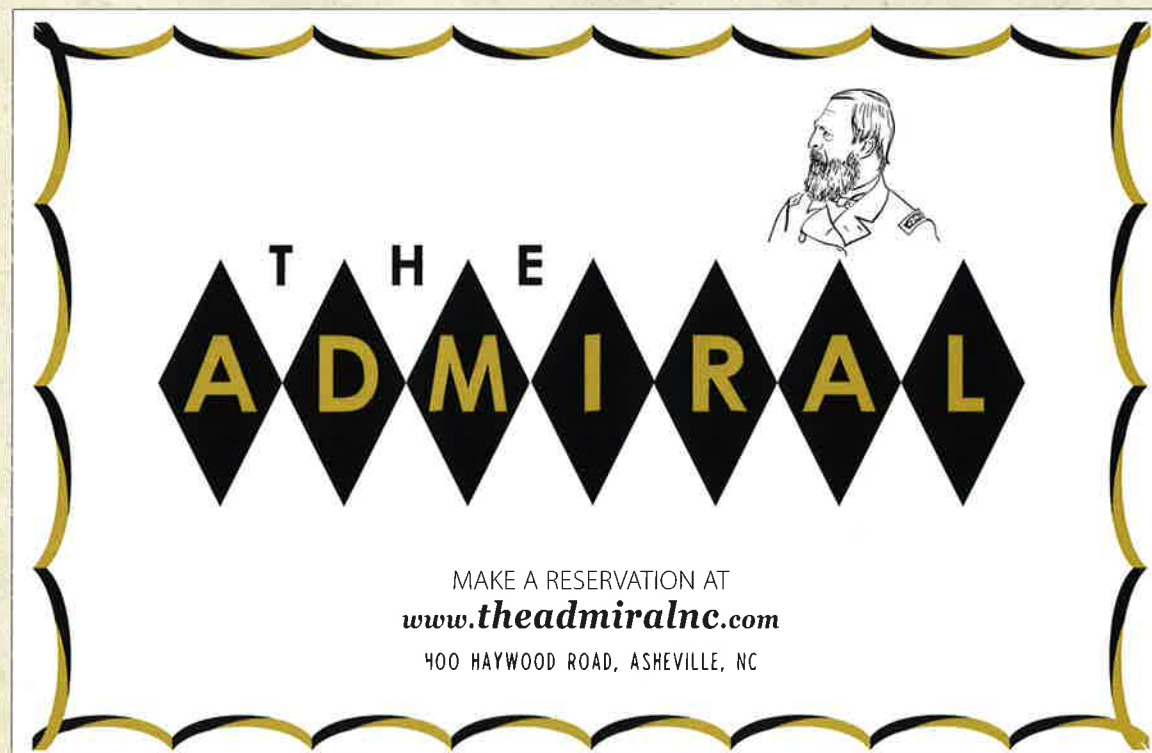
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Three crispy chicken tenders served with honey mustard, ranch, or BBQ for dipping.	
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SIDEKICKS

1992 • Director: Aaron Norris • USA • 101 min

Stunt Coordinator: Dean Ferrandini

Cast: Chuck Norris, Beau Bridges, Jonathan Brandis

High school can be pretty rough. But Barry (Jonathan Brandis) has it particularly bad. Picked on by bullies and sick from asthma, his only recourse is to retreat to a rich fantasy world where he fights alongside his hero Chuck Norris. In his dreams Barry is Norris' sidekick, fighting his most famous movie battles right by Chuck's side. But back in the real world, things are going from bad to worse. Finally reaching the end of his patience, Barry begins training in the martial arts under Mr. Lee (Mako). Will Barry be able to turn his training to his advantage and stand up to his bullies? And perhaps more importantly, will his dreams of someday meeting Chuck Norris ever come true?

For this special FREE screening of *Sidekicks*, director Aaron Norris will also be in attendance for a Question & Answer session with the audience after the film!

Don't miss out on this awesome opportunity to see a wonderful family film about dreaming big and working hard to make those dreams a reality. — Ed Travis

TRANSIT

2012 • Director: Antonio Negret • USA • 87 min

Stunt Coordinator: Charlie Picerni

Cast: Jim Caviezel, James Frain, Harold Perrineau, Dora Baird

Seems like a simple set-up for an old-fashioned B-movie thriller: vacationing family is hijacked by thieves with a bag of recently stolen loot out to evade capture. It's a story you may think you've seen before, but the beauty of *Transit* is how it goes off in its own direction, taking the plot and characters into unexpected places, which does a considerable amount to build the film's suspense. Director Antonio Negret and screenwriter Michael Gilvary have wisely done all they can to steer *Transit* away from the safe and predictable, and they make great use of its Louisiana locations. They are ably assisted by a solid cast lead by James Caviezel (*The Passion of the Christ*), *True Blood*'s James Frain and the lovely Dora Baird, one of the sexiest screen femme fatales in years. All this adds up to a rock-hard action film that delivers its thrills with expert precision. — Matthew Kiernan



FREE KIDS' SCREENING

SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 2:00 PM / ASHEVILLE PIZZA & BREWING
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NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 9:45 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

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FREE SCREENING!



FRIDAY / APRIL 13 / 6:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
 SUNDAY / APRIL 15 / 6:00 PM / CAROLINA ASHEVILLE

“If you have a daughter, it is a moral imperative that you show her this film as soon as possible.” — Film Threat

TRAILER WAR

2012 • 120 min

Get ready, grindhouse fanatics! For your entertainment we are proud to offer you the latest wacked-out assortment of trailers culled from the vaults of the famed Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Austin, TX. We've got kung fu killers, superheroes, hitmen, big house smackdowns, amputee avengers and even Joe Don Baker! Some of the highlights in this assortment of action include: *Stunt Rock*, *Argoman*, *The Fantastic Superman*, *Inframan*, *Dungeon Master*, *The Tongfathers*, *Force Five*, *Sister Streetfighter*, *Golden Needles*, *Big Guns*, *Mr. No Legs*, *Dead-End Drive-In* and *Penitentiary*. Grab a frosty ActionFest Ale and hunker down for a non-stop barrage of outrageous action and shocks with *Trailer War*!

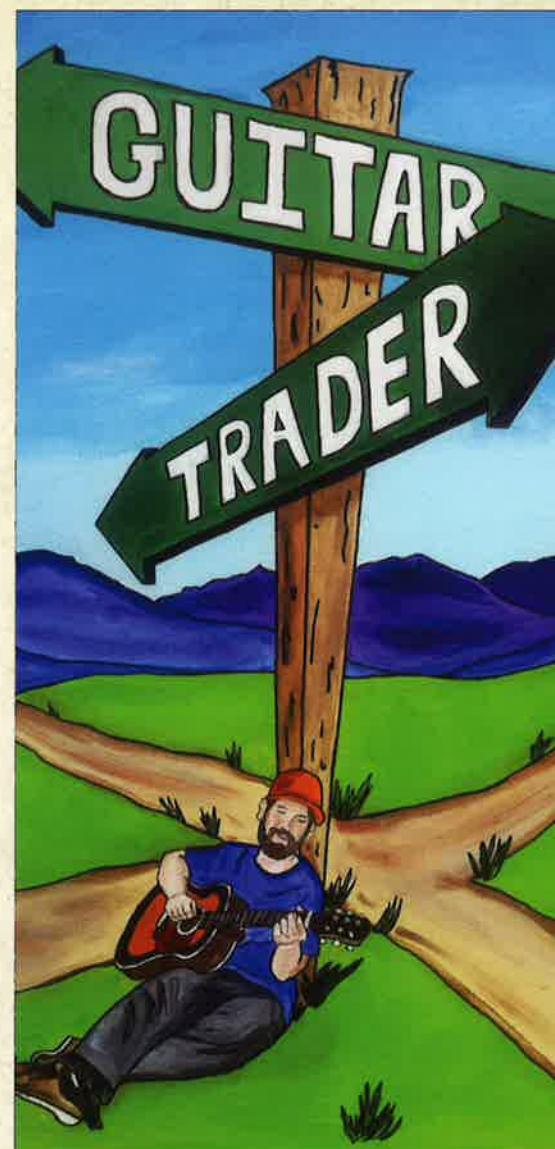
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WONDER WOMEN! THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICAN SUPERHEROINES

2012 • Director: Kristy Guevara-Flanagan • USA • 62 min

Cast: Lynda Carter, Lindsay Wagner, Gloria Steinem, Shelby Knox

From the birth of the comic book superheroine in the 40s to the blockbuster movies of today, *Wonder Women!* looks at how popular representations of powerful women often reflect society's anxieties about women's liberation. Director Kristy Guevara-Flanagan covers the history of the best-known comic book heroine, Wonder Woman, and how the image of strong women has morphed in the media since William Moulton Marston created the character in 1941. There are so few female comic book protagonists (super or otherwise), that the doc's scope goes beyond comics to include TV and film heroines such as The Bionic Woman, Ripley from *Alien*, and vampire slayer Buffy Summers. It also presents a stunning statistic: out of the 157 female characters in action films, half are evil, while good ones die in self-sacrificing ways, giving their lives for the dominant male heroes of the story. *Wonder Women!* goes behind the scenes with iconic actresses Lynda Carter and Lindsay Wagner, comic book creators, real life superheroines such as Gloria Steinem, Shelby Knox and others who offer an enlightening and entertaining counterpoint to the male-dominated superhero genre.



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NEW! ACTIONFEST STUDENT FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

New this year, ActionFest introduces its Student Filmmakers Competition, providing future champions of action cinema the opportunity to showcase their work among the best in the business. Chuck Norris (*Missing In Action*), Buddy Joe Hooker (*First Blood*) and Mickey Gilbert (*Ben Hur*) have all been honored at this premiere international action film festival ... now it's time for a new generation to step up.

Submitted films had to be between one and 20 minutes in length, and contain no less than two action-oriented sequences or elements. Films were judged based on incorporation of action into the narrative; originality and technical merit of action sequences; strength of characters/story; and overall filmmaking skill. The winner's film will be screened before the world premiere of *Bad Ass*, starring Danny Trejo. Who knows, maybe the ActionFest Student Filmmakers Competition will be the launching pad for the next Peckinpah, Woo, or Bay?

Special thanks to Gayle Hooker and David Gil for their stellar organization.



30 SECONDS OF ACTION COMPETITION

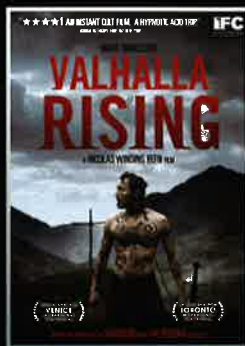
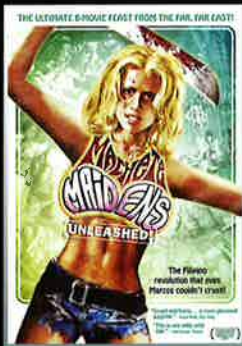
Once again, fresh and aspiring filmmakers have been tested to capture kinetic, visceral and pulse-pounding action... and bottle it all into only 30 seconds. Finalists of this year's 30 Seconds of Action contest will be playing in front of various ActionFest screenings, and a champion will be selected by the ActionFest 2012 jury and unveiled at the ActionFest Awards. Last year's finalists included everything from live-action *Action Figures* and screaming *Death Machines* to hardcore *Farmocide*, so we can't wait to see what this year's sure-to-be-action-packed entries have in store.

Prizes for the 30 Seconds of Action contest donated by Charlotte Street Computers.



Be sure to check out this year's entries and contest winners at www.actionfest.com!

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ActionFest VIP badge holders get all kinds of special incentives, with one of the finest being access to our VIP Lounge, The Powder Keg, where top festival folks hang out and drink like fishes between movies. For the second year, the lounge's intimate screening room will feature movies courtesy of our good friends at MPI Home Video. Included are crowd-pleasers from previous editions of ActionFest, including 2011 Best Film and Best Director winner *A Lonely Place To Die*; *The Good The Bad The Weird*; *Machete Maidens Unleashed!*; Johnnie To's *Vengeance*; *Valhalla Rising* and many more. If you've got the time (and you've got the badge), then sit back, relax, grab a brew and catch a few of some of the best hits from ActionFest's brief but esteemed history courtesy of MPI Home Video, Dark Sky Films, IFC Film and IFC Midnight!



The Powder Keg opens at noon on April 13 and runs until the end of the festival on April 15. VIP badge required for entry.

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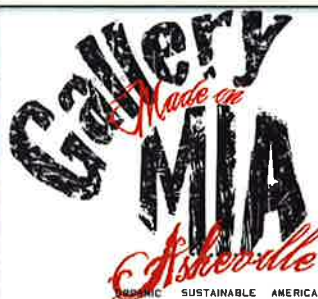


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