



PHOTO BY LIZ LANGSTON

The 48 Hour Film Project

by Bob Midland

Once I attended a book reading by Thomas McGuane, author of *Ninety-Two in the Shade*. McGuane—who spent a number of years in Hollywood—said he'd once seen two friends write the entire screenplay for a successful movie over a long, speeded-out weekend.

Those nutty guys (and nutty gals, too) would glom on to this: The 48 Hour Film Project. The 48 Hour Film Project gives metropolitan-DC-area filmmakers a chance to show what they can do in just 48 hours. The competition takes place over the weekend of May 2nd to the 4th. Filmmaking teams will each make a short film (maximum length seven minutes) in just 48 hours. In this contest, the teams write, shoot, and edit their films, and then race to the drop-off. Films that are dropped off even one minute late are disqualified.

Participating teams are given a genre, a character, prop, and a line of dialogue that they must work into their piece. The teams are responsible for putting together a cast and crew, and getting equipment and anything else needed to make a film/video.

The tight deadline of 48 hours puts the focus squarely on the filmmakers—emphasizing creativity and teamwork. While the time limit places an unusual restriction on the filmmakers, it is also liberating because it emphasizes “doing” over “talking.” The project also emphasizes building communities of local creative people, facilitating new connections, showcasing skills, and cel-

ebrating what creativity and teamwork can accomplish in just one weekend.

The 48 Hour Film Project is the world's largest extreme film competition. It began in Washington, DC in 2001, and was created by local DC producer Mark Ruppert. This year, the project will tour to more than 65 cities around the globe, including Paris, Mumbai and Singapore. Thus far, DC has the most teams competing of any city. DC's 2007 winner will screen as part of the Short Film Corner at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

The winner of DC 48HFP will go on to compete against all of the city winners from around the world for the coveted prize of Best 48 Hour Film of 2008. Winning films are screened at the 48HFP end-of-year celebration, the Filmapalooza. Last year's winning films are available for viewing on the internet. You can view the DC winner, *Kumbio Takedown*, by Integral Arts, online at www.48.tv.

Because the May issue of *InSight* arrives in early to mid April, there may still be a chance for interested local filmmakers to sign up for the competition. Teams are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the initial registration is full, teams are placed on a waiting list. If a registered team drops out, or if additional theater space is added, teams on the waiting list will be added to the project. After April 7th, the cost for team registration is \$155.



PHOTO BY BRIAN FIFE

WHAT:

The 48 Hour Film Project

WHEN:

May 6th through 9th
Showings from approximately
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

WHERE:

AFI Silver Theatre

COST:

\$9.75

MORE INFO

www.48hourfilm.com

TICKETS:

www.afi.com/silver/new