

Three film fests get together to screen their best

BY PETER GOODMAN
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Is it something in the air? Following on the heels of announcements of cooperation or collaboration among Long Island cultural organizations ranging from East End music festivals to museums Islandwide, three local film festivals are getting together to present a pair of free, outdoor screenings meant to help publicize the festivals.

"The Best of the Long Island Film Fests" series, scheduled for June 11 and 12 at the Chapin band shell in Eisenhower Park, brings together 14 independent short films seen previously at either

the Hamptons International Film Festival, the Stony Brook Film Festival, the Long Island International Film Expo or, in one case, at all three.

"The idea is to showcase Long Island's three largest film festivals and give a taste of the film festival circuit to

people who may not have been exposed to it before," said Debra Markowitz, director of the Nassau County Film Commission.

"Any way of making both Nassau County and Suffolk County residents

aware of the tremendous amount of [film] activity going on in our counties is positive," said Michelle Isabelle-Stark, director of the Suffolk Office of Cultural Affairs. She said the films will also be shown at the Brookhaven Amphitheater Arts and Cultural Park in Farmingville, but no date has been set yet.

"I think it's a great thing for these short filmmakers, who don't get exposure," Hamptons festival manager Stephanie Saylor said. "We are promoting the ones we thought were really great and giving them another chance to put them out there."

The films range in length from "Mr. Tomorrow," a 2½-minute animated piece by Jonathan Michaels from the 2001 Long Island International Film Expo, to "The Book and the Rose," a 29-minute work written and directed by Jeff Bemiss that was named best first short film at the 2002 film expo and tied as the audience choice for best short at the 2003 Stony Brook festival.

All the films have some local connection, either having been made on Long Island or by current or former Long Islanders. Rain dates for the Eisenhower Park screenings are June 18-19. Call 516-572-0012.

Meanwhile, this year's Long Island International Film Expo — to be shown



"The Best of the Long Island Film Fests" series, which is scheduled for June 11 and 12, will rescreen previously shown shorts, such as "Confection," left, and "Love Thy Brother," above.

at the Bellmore Movies rather than the Malverne Cinema 4 as previously — will be July 9-15. The Stony Brook Film Festival is July 21-31. The Hamptons International Film Festival is Oct. 20-24.

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