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Michigan Film Festival announces dates, venues and partners for second annual event

Festival expands with more collaboration and venues for Nov. 12-14 event in downtown Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 25, 2010 – **Michigan Film Festival (MFF)** announced today its second annual festival has been expanded to include additional collaborative partnerships and a new weekend for celebrating films made in Michigan.

The 2010 festival will be held Nov. 12-14 in downtown Grand Rapids at several venues. For the second year in a row, the **Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM)** serves as a venue; GRAM is scheduled to host panel discussions, lectures and family-friendly workshops.

Additionally, the **Urban Institute for the Contemporary Arts (UICA)** again provides venue space; UICA will host the film festival's Production Workshop and film screenings.

New this year: **Grand Valley State University's downtown Pew Campus** will screen student and faculty works in the Loosemore Auditorium; additionally, **ACTIVESITE @ 40 Monroe** will serve as the hospitality lounge and host site for the Music Supervisor's Showcase.

The nonprofit Michigan Film Festival will feature screenings, lectures, workshops, panel discussions and receptions, with events for film lovers, film educators and filmmakers. A kick-off party is planned for Friday evening, Nov. 12. The complete schedule is being finalized and will be posted in the coming months at www.michiganfilmfest.org.

Festival theme: Harvesting Films in Michigan

The new dates also fit with the theme selected for the second annual festival: Harvesting Films in Michigan.

“Michigan has sown the seeds for a thriving filmmaking industry,” Pider said. “It’s up to those who care about sustaining this industry to take it to the next level, and that’s what the Michigan Film Festival is all about.”

All of the films shown at the film festival are made in Michigan. Screenings consist of selections from a variety of Michigan-based festivals and universities by invitation. Additional submissions to the Michigan Film Festival are accepted through the **Michigan Film Festival Film Competition** (submitters are encouraged to visit MichiganFilmFest.org for competition guidelines).

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About the Michigan Film Festival

The mission of the Michigan Film Festival is to promote the Michigan perspective in film along with the Michigan filmmaking community by sustaining an event that includes educational workshops, panel discussions and lectures; exhibition venues displaying recently crafted Michigan-made works; and partnerships between local entities involved in supporting the Michigan film industry. Michigan Film Festival is organized by Pider Enterprises in partnership with GRAM, UICA, GVSU, ACTIVESITE and WMFVA. MFF Co-Founders: Jen Pider, Kerri VanderHoff, Chuck Peterson, Josh Depenbrok, Phil Meade, Matt Fulk and Justin Godley.

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