

## **2012 Beloit International Film Festival**

*New Dates, Films, Venues, and Events!*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 2, 2011**

**BELOIT, WI** — Beloit and surrounding communities will celebrate “The Power of Film,” Feb. 16-19, 2012, when the Beloit International Film Festival marks its seventh season! The four-day festival will include 140 films shown in 15 venues in Beloit and reaching out to Janesville and, for the first time, Rockford.

“This year, BIFF will screen a new level of quality of films. The venues we have selected for this festival will highlight the community and present the filmmakers stories in ways that BIFF audiences have not experienced before,” notes founding Executive Director Roddie Beaudoin. “We will also be presenting several unique film programs this year that will draw international attention.”

The venues have been selected and equipment is being upgraded this year to provide state-of-the-art sound and projection. “The film selection committee is now conducting its final review of films and we have raised the bar significantly on the quality of the presentations we are accepting,” says Beaudoin. “Through affiliations with other leading film festivals, BIFF has been able to secure some of the top, new independent films previously seen at only the major film festivals.”

An exciting addition to the 2012 festival will be the expansion into two venues in Rockford, at the Sullivan Theatre and Francesco’s Ristorante, and two venues in Janesville, at The Speakeasy and the Janesville Woman’s Club. There will be limited showings at these venues on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 17-18. Blackhawk Bank is presenting BIFF@Rockford and Janesville’s Tallman Historic Campus presents BIFF@Janesville.

BIFF will emphasize its international dimension with the premier presentation of “BIFF Latino,” a full day celebration of Spanish culture including film, food and music at La Casa Grande on Saturday, Feb. 18. Films, filmmakers, and musicians will come from throughout Latin America. With generous underwriting from the Southern Wisconsin Interpreting and Translation Service (SWITS) and others, the program will feature Spanish language films for children in the morning, for families in the afternoon, and feature and documentary viewing in the evening, followed by BIFF After Dark Latino, a dance party.

BIFF 2012 will open with its award-winning and greatly expanded Kids@BIFF program. The first event will find almost 2000 fifth graders from throughout Rock County gathering at the Eclipse Center where teachers and mentors will help them to develop critical viewing skills as they watch films from the Kids First library. Other Kids@BIFF programs will include middle school film productions and a high school student film competition.

Many of the favorite features of BIFF will be back such as the Blackhawk Bank Launch & Laurels Event that initiates the festival on Thursday evening when the coveted BIFFY Awards

are presented. BIFF's signature event, the M&I Bank and M&I Wealth Management Silent Film Showcase featuring Robert Tomaro and the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra, will fill up the Eclipse Center on Saturday night with Harold Lloyd's "Kid Brother."

The full schedule of events and films will be presented in a series of "Sneak Peeks," January 17-19 in Beloit, Rockford and Janesville, and tickets for BIFF films will go on sale Jan. 20 on our website [www.beloitfilmfest.org](http://www.beloitfilmfest.org).

There are many more exciting, special elements of BIFF 2012, which will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Beloit International Film Festival is made possible by The Hendricks Group and presented in association with Beloit College and with a generous grant from Visit Beloit.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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