



IFP/Chicago Kick-Off Party Launches 3rd Annual Independent Film Gala

CHICAGO, IL - June 29, 2009 - LeeAnn Trotter, Entertainment Reporter at Chicago's NBC5, hosted more than 100 guests in support of IFP/Chicago. The Kick-off held at Billy Dec's Rokit Bar & Grill on Wednesday, July 22nd, was held to increase awareness and excitement for the upcoming 2009 Independent Film Gala on September 25th, 2009 at theWit Hotel.

IFP/Chicago's Executive Director, Ryan Jewell, and Director of Development, Colleen O'Neill, greeted guests, including filmmakers Steve Jones and Steven Conrad known for his films, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *The Weatherman* and *The Promotion*. Also in attendance: Gala Host Committee members Irene Michaels, Greg Rothman, and Mike Foster, as well as President of Chicago Link Productions Brenda Sexton, Peter Marks, Vice President of Development at Towers Productions and countless other accomplished filmmakers, IFP members, sponsors and Indie film supporters. Guests were able to choose from specialty cocktails courtesy of VitaminWater and Effen Vodka, in addition to Red Truck wine or a beer from local brewery, Goose Island.

All attendees were there to support IFP/Chicago's mission and commitment to the idea that independent film is an important art form and a powerful voice in our society. This event, along with the upcoming Independent Film Gala, will afford IFP/Chicago the opportunity to continue to provide resources, information and avenues of communication for independent filmmakers, industry professionals and independent film enthusiasts in Chicago and throughout the Midwest. IFP/Chicago encourages quality and diversity in independent production and assist filmmakers at all levels of experience in realizing their unique vision, including our Emmy-winning students that participate in our award-winning mentorship program with CVCA.

The night left everyone buzzing with excitement for the 2009 Independent Film Gala on September 25th, 2009. Tickets are on sale now at www.ifpchicago.org. Tickets are limited.

A special thank you to the generous contributions of the evenings sponsors: theWit Hotel, VitaminWater, Towers Productions, Kodak, DePaul University, Columbia College, Rokit Bar & Grill, NBC5, Two Muses Media+Entertainment, and Essanay Studio & Lighting.

PR/MEDIA CONTACT:

Amy Dorris-Hulth



Phone: 312-329-1925

Fax: 312-268-6572

Email: amy@tmme.us

IFP/CHICAGO CONTACT:

Colleen O'Neill

Director of Development

Phone: 312-301-1375

Fax: 928-484-6495

Email: coneill@ifp.org

*Photo captions on following page:

IFP Photo 1:



Amy Dorris-Hulth, LeeAnn Trotter and Colleen O'Neill



Billy Dec, Colleen O'Neill, Brenda Sexton, Ken Cook and Peter Marks

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