

**For:** Ballston Spa Film Festival  
Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association  
<http://bspafilm.com>

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\*Media Clips available for “True Beauty” and “Signs”\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GLITZ & GLAM AT BALLSTON SPA FILM FESTIVAL 2010 PROVES TO BE BEST YEAR  
YET!**

For two nights this past weekend, Ballston Spa turned into the Capital District Hollywood as 30 short films from around the world were screened by an audience of over 400 and seven judges, each with a long list of Hollywood credits.

Returning judges Daniel Fried, Daniel Pyne, and Anne Marie Lizzi each commented that the level of quality in the films shown here have increased each year, and was especially high this year. This year was the first year of judging for Larry Jackson – who discovered Julia Roberts, directed **Bugs Bunny Superstar**, former Exec VP for Miramax, and advisor in the creation of the Sundance Institute. He told the Ballston Spa Film Festival (BSFF) committee, “I thought you put on a terrific event for the community – and for the filmmakers – where you were well organized and your choice of films was really, really good in quality, variety, and reach. Ballston Spa is certainly a place we’d love to see again.”

Dan Masucci, writer/director of this year’s contender, **Beneath the Same Sky** commented, “What great venues and events and the gift bag was the best I’ve gotten – gotta love brownies, popcorn, and a candy bar. Seriously that’s the kind of stuff that is really cool. The tee shirt and cup were icing on the goodie bag cake. I love that you build up quite an audience. It is one of the better attended festivals I’ve been too. It was an honor to be shown among so many great films.”

Charlie Lyons, a doctor of theater and film from Columbia, and former film reporter for *Variety* and the *NY Times*, as well as one of the favorites for this year's best film, also commented on the quality of his competition this year. "I thought **Signs** was the best film. It was one of the best short films I've ever seen!"

**Signs** did indeed steal the show – along with three of the top prizes. Winners included:

*Best Picture:* Patrick Hughes for "**Signs**" (Australia)

*Best Director:* Paul Besson "**True Beauty This Night**" (Hollywood)

*Best Animated Film:* Holly Klein "**Maggie and Mildred**" (London)

*Best Film College:* Caner Apis "**Shoes**" (Turkey)

*Best Film High School:* Alex Gilmet "**The Drum Set**" (Niskayuna)

*Best Screenplay:* Patrick Hughes and Karl Fleet for "**Signs**" (Australia)

*Best New Film:* Ed Hartwell "**The Day The Robots Woke Up**" (London)

*Best Comedy:* Brian Billow "**Bodega**" (Chicago)

*Best Editing:* Jo Scott "**Signs**" (Australia)

*Best Sound:* Diego Sanchidrian Rubio "**El Rayo y La Sirena**" (Spain)

*Of Local Interest:* Mike Feurstein "**Greatest Man Alive**" (Schenectady)

*Special Achievement Award:* Rich Lounello "**The Loop**" (Albany)

The BSFF is held every year, the first weekend in August. Stay tuned for details for 2011's festivities.

The BSFF is put on by the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, a non-profit community organization committed to making the Village of Ballston Spa a better place to live and work, and to bringing quality arts and entertainment events for all ages to the community. Funded in part by the Saratoga Program for Arts Funding, Saratoga Gaming & Raceway Foundation, and by area businesses, all proceeds go toward future festivals and other community events presented by the Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association. For more information on the films, talents, events, winners, or sponsorship, go to <http://bspafilm.com>.

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