

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

Contact: Daniel DeFabio, Director, 518-xxx-xxxx
xx@xxx.com

From: Silverpen Productions
202 Saratoga Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
www.silverpenproductions.com
518-330-3685

Contact: Jenna Caputo
jenna@silverpenproductions.com

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HOLLYWOOD COMES TO TOWN... AGAIN

As Bradley Cooper, Ryan Gosling, and Eva Mendes roll into town to shoot their movie, *The Place Beyond the Pines*, in Schenectady County, we are reminded once again how much Hollywood loves the Capital District.

Many films have been shot throughout the area over the years, including *Seabiscuit*, *Salt*, *Scent of a Woman*, *The Other Guys*, *The Horse Whisperer*, *The Time Machine*, *Ironweed*, *The Age of Innocence*, and *Taking Woodstock* (just to name a few!). And the historic village of Ballston Spa certainly has had its taste of Hollywood as well, with the 1973 Oscar winning movie, *The Way We Were*, partially filmed downtown and starring Robert Redford and Barbara Streisand. Olympic bobsled coach, Pat Brown, a native of Ballston Spa, was portrayed by John Candy in the 1994 movie, *Cool Runnings*, about the historic 1988 Olympic Jamaican bobsled team. And since Daniel DeFabio started the Ballston Spa (International) Film Festival (BSFF) 4 years ago, Hollywood has been taking even more of an interest in the area.

2009's festival saw its winner of the Best Animated Short, *French Roast*, by Fabrice Joubert, win several international awards before garnering an Oscar nomination for the Academy Awards. This year's festival again includes an Oscar nominee. *The Gruffalo* from Magic Light Pictures, features the voices of Helena Bonham Carter and John Hurt. Aardman Animation (*Wallace & Grommet*) also shows up this year with 2 new submissions. For the first time, the BSFF will screen a feature film. *Mineville*, shot in Essex County, NY stars Paul Sorvino, Michael Sorvino, and William Sadler in a period piece about miners fighting for safer work conditions.

More

This year's festival features professional, amateur, and student films from around the world (including Mexico, England, Poland, Australia, Argentina, Spain, Russia, India, Germany, New York, and California) and right here in the Capital District. Locally, audiences will see submissions from festival veterans Dan Masucci, high school student Jacob MacAuliffe, Kevin Craig West, and Michael Feurstein among several other local names. Entries are in a variety of genres including animations, documentary, drama, and comedy.

The finalists will be judged by a panel of Hollywood professionals with a list of credits that include *Silence of the Lambs*, *Mystic Pizza*, *Rudy*, *So I Married An Ax-Murderer*, *O, Illusion*, *The Skeptic*, *Big Brother*, *Oprah Behind the Scenes*, *Hell's Kitchen*, *Bugs Bunny Superstar*, and *Dorian Blues*.

The festival runs August 4-6 and is **free** and open to the public. In addition to the screenings, other festival events include fire dancers, photo booth, after parties, and music by Vesper and Billboard recording artist, Patti Rothberg.

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 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, or sponsorship, go to <http://www.bspafilm.com>.

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