

Greek documentary-maker Antonios Rellas takes part in the Other Film Festival

From September 3 until September 7, Australia's only disability film festival will be held at The Age Theatre, Melbourne Museum.

Presented by Arts Access Victoria, THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL is a kaleidoscopic biennial event of ground-breaking short films, documentaries and animations from all corners of the globe including Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Greece, UK, USA, France Iran, Denmark, Canada, Hungary and, of course, Australia.

Now in its third year, THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL promotes the passionate exchange of ideas by offering a gloriously diverse line-up of films that explore the many facets of disability with humor, verve and drama, and invites interac-

tion with audience members via a range of guest speakers and lively forums.

The 2008 line-up includes more than 35 films to be shown over 20 sessions, in an environment that promotes accessibility for every audience member. Films will be captioned and audio described and all sessions and forums will be sign interpreted.

This year's Festival is also delighted to welcome several international guests including award-winning Canadian director, Paul Nadler, whose gutsy film BRAINDAMADJ'D...TAKE 2 will be re-screened due to popular demand; **Greek documentary-maker Antonios Rellas who will present his latest film WAVES OF THE AEGEAN;** Gregor Kern, the world's leading authority on dis-

ability cinema and director of Germany's long-running Wie Wie Leben (The Way We Live Festival), and from the USA, Betty Siegel, director of Accessibility at Washington's Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts.

On the local front, Filmmaker and Festival Patron Adam Elliott will share some hilarious and potentially defamatory stories about the making of his latest stop-motion feature animation, MARY AND MAX. Director Stephen Lance along with the lead actors of YOLK will be on hand to discuss the hilarious and confronting implications of when one young girl with Down Syndrome decides to steal a book on sex from the mobile library.

World's biggest short film competition comes to Sydney

The Sydney segment of the internationally acclaimed 48 Hour Film Project will be run from the Blue Mountains as a part of this year's Footbeat Festival. The weekend of 10-12 October promises to be a wild and sleepless weekend for the teams who are challenged to make a movie – write, shoot and edit it – in just 48 hours.

Filmmakers from Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Lithgow, Bathurst and the Blue Mountains are invited to compete in the world's oldest and largest timed-film competition. The 48HFP takes place annually in over 70 cities around the world with more than 40,000 filmmakers competing to win the title of Best 48 Hour Film of 2008.

"Don't be surprised if the next Peter Weir or Gillian Armstrong is lurking down the street or waiting around the corner," said project producer Ken Quinnell. "Nothing can prepare filmmakers for the reality of film production like this adrenaline-fuelled event. What's called on is creativity and plenty of it. It's a rare opportunity for filmmaker to see their work jump from celluloid to the big screen - almost instantly."

All films in the Sydney competition will be screened at The Edge Cinema in Katoomba in October when judges will select the winners in each category and the audience will select its favourite. The awards will be presented at a gala "best of" screening on 1st November.

"We're excited to be playing host to this event which comes to Sydney for the first time ever this year," said the Edge's Business Development Manager, Zara Browne. "I'm sure it will not only be a keenly contested competition but great viewing entertainment as well."

The 48HFP is a partnership between the Footbeat (formerly known as Songlines) Festival and BLU FM 89.1 community radio.

"It's going to be intense, I can promise



The Edge Cinema complex where the 48 Hour Film Project will be screened in October-November.

you that," said Tom Papas, director of the Footbeat Festival. "If you have always talked about making films but never quite got around to it, then this competition is for you. This forces you to do it. And, although it is a competition, the emphasis is on having fun."

Ken Quinnell gave an example of how the 48HFP can help launch a filmmaking career. "Myles West", last year's winner in Brisbane where the competition is in its fifth year, went on to win a swag of awards at the international competition in America, competing against the winners from 50 other cities. It was then screened in the Short Film Corner at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.

"Anyone of any age can compete, amateur or professional," says Ken. "We encourage school teams, senior's teams, and the participation of those with a disability. Films can be in any language, as well. Each team receives a genre, a character, a prop, and a line of dialogue that they must work into their 3 - 7 minute film." This year the number of cities competing has reached more than 70 with Melbourne also joining this year.

The international sponsor is Panasonic. Sydney Water, Integral Energy,

Festivals Australia, New South Wales Tourism, Metro Screen, Blue Mountains City Council, BLU FM 89.1 and The Edge Cinema sponsor the Footbeat Festival and the 48-Hour Film Project.

To learn more about the 48 Hour Film Project and register a team go to www.48hourfilm.com/sydney or phone Ken Quinnell on 0419 463 009 for further information. Entries are now open and will be accepted until 3rd October.

About the 48 Hour Film Project

The 48 Hour Film Project is the oldest and largest timed film competition in the world. In 2008, more than 70 cities will participate, with over 40,000 filmmakers expected. The 48 Hour Film Project's mission is to advance filmmaking and promote filmmakers. The tight deadline of 48 hours puts the focus squarely on the filmmakers – emphasizing creativity and teamwork. While the time limit places an unusual restriction on the filmmakers, it is also liberating by putting an emphasis on "doing" instead of "talking." The emphasis is also on building communities of local creative people, facilitating making new connec-

tions, showcasing skills, and celebrating what creativity and teamwork can accomplish in just one weekend. The 2008 tour begins in April in Boston and ends in October. For more information go to www.48hourfilm.com.

Cities include: Albuquerque; Amsterdam; Anchorage; Asheville; Athens; Atlanta; Austin; Baltimore; Barbados; Barcelona; Berlin; Boston; Brisbane; Buffalo; Chicago; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Dallas; Denver; Des Moines; Detroit; Edinburgh; Fargo; Finland; Geneva; Ghent; Greensboro; Honolulu; Houston; Indianapolis; Inland Empire; Jacksonville; Kansas City; Key West; Las Vegas; Little Rock; London; Los Angeles; Louisville; Madison; Melbourne; Miami; Milwaukee; Minneapolis; Mumbai; Nashville; New Orleans; New York; Paris; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Pittsburgh; Portland, Maine; Portland, Oregon; Providence; Richmond; Rome; Salt Lake City; San Antonio; San Diego; San Francisco; San Jose; Seattle; Second Life; Singapore; Sydney; St. Louis; Tampa; Tel Aviv; Toronto; Utrecht; Virginia Beach; Washington, DC; and more...