

# News from the Durango Independent Film Festival!



www.durangofilm.org

## Welcome to YOUR first newsletter from DIFF!

Hello Film Aficionados!

A hearty THANKS to all who attended and enjoyed Durango's 2008 Film Festival events! With more than 100 films screened, 13 sold-out film programs, filmmaker salons, great parties and special festival events, our third year was a raving success. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

### What did our filmmakers think about the 2008 festival?

Issue #1  
May 5, 2008

"The crowds were amazing, energetic, and fun.... You all are really producing a great event-- amazing films, great staff and volunteers, fun events, and great audiences." Dru Carr, ***Brave New West***



"One of the best festivals ever and nobody wanted to leave!" Glenna, ***Uncounted***

"The filmmakers were treated so well and the community showed so much support for the entire endeavor! There was excellent organization throughout every aspect of the festival, and all of the staff were incredibly kind, generous, and charismatic." Kristoffer Newsom, ***Road to Victory***

"DIFF has been the single best festival experience I have had with 'Road to Victory' to date." Jonathon Kitchen, ***Road to Victory***

"If you are lucky enough to have your film accepted here, then DO NOT hesitate in going.... The entire town of Durango becomes a film-loving village, where filmmakers are meeting with locals and films are playing all day.... The quality of the films was top-notch!" Muhammad Ali Hasan, ***Rabia***



We would like to extend a very special thanks to our first Presenting Sponsor

For more information, please visit [www.theGlacierClub.com](http://www.theGlacierClub.com)

Interested in supporting DIFF?

## "The Nuts & Bolts" 2008 DIFF Stats



- DIFF and the Durango Herald welcomed 528 filmgoers to **Free Movie Night** Wednesday, February 27th.
- A total of 5,490 people attended the 2008 Durango Independent Film Festival, a 19% increase over 2007.
- There were 13 sold-out film programs in the festival.
- Over 40 filmmakers and their guests attended this year's festival.
- 20 countries were represented by films and/or filmmakers: USA, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Romania, Argentina, Indonesia, Switzerland, and more!
- **Salim Baba** and **War/Dance**, two films screened at this year's festival, made the short list for the Oscars.



Thanks to industry sponsor **ProductionHUB**  
for their continued support.

## The 2008 DIFF Independent Spirit Award

This year's Independent Spirit Award was presented to Chuck Norton of Norton's Catering. Norton's Catering has been DIFF's official caterer for 2006, 2007, and 2008 and is committed to continue their incredible support of the 2009 film festival and beyond!

Previous winners of the Independent Spirit Award were: The Leland House B&B/Rochester Hotel, and Richard & Mary Lyn Ballantine.

In 2008 The Independent Spirit Award became a traveling award. Designed by Durango artist, Mike Brieger, the statuette will be handed on to the next winner at the 2009 Awards Ceremony.

DIFF sincerely appreciates the efforts of Mike Brieger for creating our brand new traveling trophy.

Year-round volunteer opportunities are available. Sponsorships of various types and levels are welcome. And of course, cash donations are always greatly appreciated!

To learn more about supporting DIFF, contact the office at  
970-375-7779.



## 2009 Call for Entries!



Beginning July 1, 2008, we will be accepting submissions for the 2009 Durango Independent Film Festival. At that time, you may go directly to [www.withoutabox.com](http://www.withoutabox.com)

## Mark your calendar!

The 2009 Durango  
Independent Film Festival

Wednesday - Sunday  
March 4th - March 8th



## What's happening with our filmmakers outside the world of DIFF?



- 2008 DIFF feature film, **Road to Victory**, won audience award (Best of the Fest) at the 2008 First Take Film Festival in Augusta, GA.
- **First Saturday in May**, 2008 DIFF audience award winner for Best Documentary, opened nationwide in April.
- Mark Fergus, director and screenwriter for 2007 DIFF feature film, **First Snow**, has co-written mainstream film **Iron Man**, now in theatres nationwide.

**Congratulations ALL!**

## ENTER TO WIN!

Announcing the first ever  
DIFF Poster Design  
Competition!

Watch our website for contest  
details coming soon!

[www.durangofilm.org](http://www.durangofilm.org)



Join Our Mailing List!

Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail us if you have questions about our organization!

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