



NEWS RELEASE

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CALLING ALL PETER JACKSONS

OHAKUNE -- Organisers of the inaugural BIG MOUNTAIN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL have announced they are actively seeking short film entries from New Zealanders.

"If you've got a video camera and a computer, you should submit a film," said Jeff Bollow, the festival's director and co-founder. "A good story can be made with nothing but a little creativity."

Held in Ohakune on Labour Weekend, October 20 - 22, the festival offers free admission, free low-budget filmmaking seminars, a schools competition, and up to 80 short films made by local and international filmmakers, presented under two strands: "Budget" and "No-Budget".

Program A will screen up to 30 short films produced for over \$1,000 or which would otherwise be considered professional. Program B, the "No Budget" category, will show up to 50 short films made for less than \$1,000 using only a home video camera and a computer.

"Big Mountain is a new annual event aimed at educating, inspiring and celebrating the next generation of talent," said Bollow, a Los Angeles native and producer/director of *Making Fantastic Short Films*, an educational DVD for schools. "We want to nurture that talent, and help build a thriving industry well into the future."

Filmmakers and would-be's can submit as many films as they like on DVD, at no cost, and some of the prizes include a trip for two to Sydney, internships at production companies, and participation in an upcoming production.

But get started immediately -- the submission deadline is August 30th, and full submission details can be found on the festival's website at www.bigmountain.co.nz

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QUICK FACT SHEET

About the Big Mountain Short Film Festival

- Festival dates: October 20 - 22, 2006
- Festival location: Ohakune Cinema, Ohakune, New Zealand
- 100% FREE event (free submission, free attendance, free education)
- Will screen up to 30 "budget" and 50 "no-budget" short films
- Will include speakers and presentations offering a free tips and techniques for both budget and no-budget filmmaking
- A schools competition is planned
- A festival outreach programme is planned
- Designed to promote and encourage the "next generation"
- Celebrating two levels of the independent filmmaking world
- This is the inaugural Big Mountain Short Film Festival
- Winners will be invited to participate in upcoming TV program

About Entering

- Submission deadline: August 30, 2006
- Entry is free
- Filmmakers may submit under two strands: "Budget" or "No-Budget"
- "Budget" (Program A) is anything shot on film, or with budgets over \$1,000, or which would otherwise be considered professional
- "No Budget" (Program B) must be shot with a video camera and edited on a home computer, and budget cannot exceed \$1,000
- Submit on DVD
- There are no age or genre limits, and the festival encourages novice and emerging filmmakers

About the Organisers

- Jeff Bollow is the LA-born director/producer of "Making Fantastic Short Films" an educational DVD for schools, author of "Writing FAST: How to Write Anything with Lightning Speed", and founder of Australia's Screenplay.com.au
- Bret Gibson is a respected NZ-born artist/producer, who completed a major project in Paris in 2005

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