

# Queens International Film Festival: A Success Story in Astoria PRINT

Thursday, 24 November 2005

The Queens International Film Festival celebrated its third season in Astoria, Queens this weekend with world-class films, a student showcase, art exhibits, industry symposiums and exotic parties.

The Festival expanded on its previous season with 3 screening venues, 20 features, 19 documentaries and over 120 short films and music videos- to be truly it's breakout year. After remarks from area Councilman Eric Gioia on opening night, Thursday, November 17, the festivities were launched in a most unusual fashion with Queens native and martial arts instructor Sifu/Guro Dan Anderson, in traditional Filipino garb cutting the ribbon with a sword. That evening the Festival's opening night films, Looking for Cuba and Croatian Oscar hopeful A Wonderful Night in Split played to a full house at Astoria's Museum of the Moving Image. That night the QIFF celebrated it's opening with the first ever Cuban/Croatian party complete with dancers and singers from those countries.

The Festival was also host to a filmmakers' expo and lounge where filmmakers could mix and mingle with other industry professionals and hock their wares to press and distribution outlets. QIFF also hosted a Youth Outreach seminar in which at-risk kids met industry luminaries and were exposed to the expressive process of filmmaking.

Overcoming its youthful size, over the next three days the QIFF continued by screening 5 more international Oscar entries at the Kaufman Astoria Studios Zukor Theater and the Alliance Francaise Tinker Theater from: Croatia, China, India, Fiji and Turkey, for which an impressive Turkish bazaar was created as the backdrop for the hottest after-party on this year's film festival circuit.

The closing night awards ceremony opened with a tribute to screenwriter / producer / author Richard Stratton and continued with an exciting roster of award winners from around the world and our own back yard. Best Picture went to: Turkey's Lovelorn; Best Foreign Language Film was China's Perhaps Love and the QIFF's Best Director was awarded to Arsen Anton Ostojic of A Wonderful Night in Split. The Festival's other awards were: Best Documentary, Fat Boy; Best Comedy, The Life Coach; Best Animation, New York Sky; Best Short Film, She He; Best Music Video, You Drive; Best Screenplay Best Western and the Best of New York Award went to a locally made feature, Falling.

With the momentum gained at this year's Queens International Film Festival, next year's event promises to be even more expansive and is already slated to feature more screening and party venues as well as more great films.

Keep up with the growth of this emerging Film Festival by logging on to [www.queensfilmfestival.com](http://www.queensfilmfestival.com) and see where the diversity of Queens and a devotion to film take them in the coming year.

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