

STORYBOARD

Virginia Film Office News

FESTIVAL EDITION

Four exciting and unique film festivals take place in the next few weeks in Richmond, Charlottesville and Hampton Roads.

James River Film Festival • March 27 – April 6

The James River Film Festival in Richmond is called “*Virginia’s festival for the independent-minded*” and the 2008 Festival lives up to that title. This year, an incredible range of unusual, unique and rarely seen films, documentaries and shorts will be featured, including films by three prominent Richmond area filmmakers. VCU Cinema Studies program director Rob Trenga’s feature film *Inside/Out* will be screened at the Byrd Theatre (Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.) It is story of madness, restlessness, ennui and, ultimately, about time itself. Virginia native Richard Kelly will be in town to screen his cult hit *Donnie Darko: The Director’s Cut* at The Byrd. (April 5, 11:30 p.m.) His film *Southland Tales*, an apocalyptic sci-fi war story, will have its Richmond premiere, also at the Byrd. (April 6, noon.) Richmond filmmaker David Williams will present *Bad Girls*, a work-in-progress about the local art duo known as “Bad Girl Art” at the Firehouse Theatre. (April 6, 5:00 p.m.) Other Festival highlights include a reception sponsored by the Virginia Film Office at *The Camel* (April 4, 4:30—6:30 p.m.) followed by a juried short film competition (Firehouse Theatre, 7 p.m.) Flicker, a screening series for Richmond filmmakers, will commemorate its 10th Anniversary with a return of the popular *Attack of the 50 Foot Reels* at the Firehouse Theatre. (Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.) For information and a schedule of events, visit www.rmicweb.org.

VCU French Film Festival • March 28 – 30

The VCU French Film Festival, one of the largest and most comprehensive festivals of its kind in the United States, features the newest films of the French cinema. These works will be presented at the historic Byrd Theatre in Richmond by the award-winning actors and directors who made them. The Festival’s offerings are always exciting, provocative and aim to showcase a wide representation of the diversity of contemporary French cinema. The selected films are usually recent releases and are often American premieres (or sometimes even world premieres) of prize-winning feature-length and short films. Visit the [VCU French Film Festival website](#) for a schedule of events and ticket information.

ONFilmFest: REEL POLITICS • March 29 – April 5

From its beginnings nearly a decade ago, this Hampton Roads Festival, presented by Old Dominion University and the City of Norfolk, has continued to grow in scope and stature. The 2008 Festival emphasizes political themes, incorporating new and old films as well as lectures and discussions. Acclaimed actor Danny Glover will receive the ONFilm Lifetime Achievement Award on Saturday, April 5. A special pre-festival event featuring activist/actress Mia Farrow will take place Thursday March 27 on the ODU Campus. Those interested in Hampton Roads filmmaking won’t want to miss the Second Annual Career Day Expo (April 5, Noon - 2:00 p.m.) that will be followed by a panel discussion featuring area producers, writers, actors and educators. For more information on this exciting one-of-a-kind festival, visit the [ONFilmFest website](#).

Black Maria Film Festival • April 9, 7 p.m., Vinegar Hill Theatre

Black Maria Film Festival director John Columbus returns to Charlottesville on April 9 at 7 p.m. to present a series of award-winning, cutting-edge films and videos. These works, selected through an international juried competition, are touring the country, and each stop on the tours has a custom tailored program designed for a meaningful audience experience unique to that city. The wide-ranging selections include animated, documentary, experimental and satirical films. The Black Maria Film Festival is sponsored by the Virginia Film Festival Film Society. Visit the [Virginia Film Festival website](#) for further information.

