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MILLBROOK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2010 COMPETITION

Plans have just been announced for the 2010 Millbrook International 3 Minute Film Festival. What began as a bit of a joke four years ago has grown into one of Millbrook's most anticipated arts events of the year. And this year's competition, culminating in a gala screening and awards evening to be held on April 24, 2010, is expected, once again, to be a grand affair.

"The first year we figured we'd have a little gathering in someone's living room," says festival chair Evelyn Raab. "We'd watch some funny little films and make a party out of it. When we received an entry from Bosnia, we realized this was going to be much bigger than we thought."

The surprise success of the little film festival has delighted both filmmakers and audiences alike. As MIFF has grown over the past three years, the organizers have received entries from all over the world, with last year's top jury prize awarded to a film from Spain. The 2009 audience People's Choice Award, however, was given to a film created by three young filmmakers from Peterborough, Ontario, demonstrating the festival's commitment to supporting local as well as international talent.

Although details for the event are still being finalized, festival organizers confirm that the 2010 gala will be held at the Cavan-Monaghan Community Centre in Millbrook, Ontario (the Millbrook arena). This bigger venue will not only make it possible to accommodate a larger audience for the screening, but will also keep the festival right in the village of Millbrook, where it began. "Last year we had a standing room only crowd," explains Linda Brock, one of the MIFF organizers. "We obviously needed to expand."

Films submitted to the festival must no more than three minutes in length (but can be shorter) and must be delivered on either DVD or mini digital videotape format. It is still free to enter and the competition is open to anyone, of any age, from anywhere. Deadline for entries is March 12, 2010. Full details and entry forms are available on the MIFF website at www.millbrookfilmfestival.com.