

Women write.
Women direct.
Everybody
laughs.



The
BROAD HUMOR
Film Festival
broadhumor.com

2006



2007



2008



2009



2010



**FIVE YEARS
AND WE'RE STILL LAUGHING**

WHAT we do

The Broad Humor Film Festival supports funny female filmmakers with a variety of events packed into one short weekend. Some of these events are typical of film festivals: screenings, discussions, awards and parties. Some of the events are unique to this festival such as the Broadsides Screenplay Lab and the Legacy Project.

Once a filmmaker has been a part of our festival, we continue to support her in her craft. We have launched Broad Humor Films, a unique portal online supporting an elite cadre of women who write and direct comedy.

Broad Humor is the only festival in the world to focus on the comic vision of women and has not only unspooled great programs of short and feature films by women from every part of the globe, it has inspired and supported projects that have gone on to win awards in other festivals. Broad Humor actively invests in its “broads,” their growth as artists and their careers as filmmakers.

Broad Humor inspires and supports women making movies. It also acts as a force for change simply by putting smiles on the faces of women and men in audiences here in the US and abroad. In addition to playing at the five annual festivals, Broad Humor films have screened in Italy on three separate occasions: at the English Theater of Rome for primarily US Embassy and UN personnel in Rome; at a Tuscany travel conference in Livorno; and at a women’s travel weekend in Lucca. We have found the things women laugh about to be universal in appeal, affirmative of life, and just plain fun.

Changing the world by changing the stories.

This festival is the first of its kind to put the spotlight on film comedies by women. We had no idea what we would get when we started. Nobody did. The view from traditional channels is that women don't make comedies. Despite some high-profile women in comedy, the roles of writers and directors in the mainstream remain predominantly male.

Why the void? Is it lack of encouragement, lack of exposure, lack of market, or lack of talent? Or are we using the wrong yardstick, one that measures in one dimension while the women are producing work in another? The first reason to have this festival is simply to collect and look at what is out there so we can begin to answer these questions.

The second reason is to give recognition to the women making movies that deserve to be seen but for whom there is no venue. A movie that is finished but never gets a chance to speak to an audience is like a stillbirth. How can anyone, man or woman, become a master of their craft without the vital dialog with spectators and critics?

The third reason for this festival is to help women build a community. Joking is not done by the meek. Comedy is not ladylike. Who knows what will happen when a bunch of funny broads gather in one place?

The final reason is personal. I love to laugh. I am charmed by the absurd. And it has been women who have mostly made me laugh. I miss this laughter in the culture at large and I think everyone of us is the loser for it.

Susan diRende
festival founder

WHY we do it

WHO we are



Susan di Rende - executive director

Susan is an award-winning writer and director with a background in circus, opera and theater. Before coming to Los Angeles, she ran a weekly cabaret in Seattle for three years and started a women's theatre company.

Kaat Cleenewerck - co-director

Kaat is an experienced producer originally from Brussels, Belgium, whose work includes projects with TV Brussels before coming to Los Angeles. Most recently she was the events coordinator for the entertainment nonprofit, Australians in Film.

Luci Hamilton - production manager

Luci has been a law firm Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer in California and Rio de Janeiro for over 25 years.

Jenny Hodges - venue manager

Jenny is the technical director and stage manager for the Electric Lodge Performing Arts Center, a solar powered theater dedicated to promoting innovative and experimental works.

Donna Wheeler - public relations and outreach

Donna is a globe-trotting, award-winning MFA filmmaker based in Los Angeles. She makes both independent and corporate films, most recently for Herbalife Products. Her feature film, *Death of a Saleswoman*, won her best director and best feature awards.

Janice Kennedy - organizational liaison

The former executive director of the Hedgebrook Writers Retreat, Janice is experienced as an administrator as well as being a prolific writer herself with numerous awards. Her script for *Man. Woman. Blackbird.* was made into a film that has screened at many film festivals around the country.

You've inspired me to not give up and to make another so I have this experience all over again next year. -Jill Effron 2006

Knowing that there are so many of us out there, being funny and telling stories, by whatever means necessary, makes me, as a writer and filmmaker feel less alone as I practice my labor of love. Some of us have found colleagues, others have found knowledge and resources that we were never aware of before. For me, I found hope. -Michelle Clay 2007

What was fantastic was hearing the laughter from the women in the audience as the film played. -Laura Somers 2008

Winning last year has led to wonderful things. I'm working on the book and have a literary agent breathing down my neck. -Constance Brenner 2009

On behalf of the many friends and colleagues in the UN system who attended the Broad Humor Film Festival, I would like to thank you for bringing such an important and entertaining project to the international community in Rome. -Ann Joyce 2007



HOW we're doing