

IN THIS ISSUE

- NEWS**
- THE REEL THING**
- INDIE FILM FOCUS**
- INTERVIEW**
- WHO'S WHO**
- DATEBOOK**
- SCREENINGS & EVENTS**
- CLASSIFIEDS**
- BACKTALK**
- SEARCH**
- ADVERTISE/MEDIA KIT**
- CONTACT/SUBMISSIONS**

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

DATEBOOK

TODAY IS OCTOBER 16, 2007

OCTOBER 16 • WIF FOCUS AWARDS at the Ritz Carlton hotel, 160 E. Pearson, 11:30 a.m. reception, noon luncheon. Members, \$90, others, \$125.

[click here for COMPLETE DATEBOOK](#)

INDIE FILM FOCUS

High Times Magazine's Stony Award for Best Doc awarded to Towfighnia's "Standing Silent Nation"

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Alex White Plume in "Standing Silent Nation"

SUREE TOWFIGHNIAS "Standing Silent Nation" won marijuana magazine High Times' 2007 Stony Award for Best Documentary.

Alex White Plume, the subject of "Standing Silent Nation," is the president of Owe Aku, a group dedicated to preserving Lakota Indian culture. It screens in Owe Aku's International Human Rights and Justice Program, Oct. 22 and 23 at two venues in New York City.

The film follows White Plume's legal battle with the DEA to develop industrial hemp, which is biologically distinct from marijuana, as an environmentally sustainable cash crop on his impoverished Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

"Standing Silent Nation" premiered on PBS' national "P.O.V." Towfighnia and producer Courtney Hermann's Prairie Dust Films is selling DVDs through their web site www.standingsilentnation.com.

"7 COLOMBIAN KILOS," from Low Bow Productions, a brutal story of betrayal between two partners in the violent business of supplying drugs, debuts Oct. 20 at the Portage Theatre, 4050 N. Milwaukee at 6 p.m.

Written, directed and produced by Zeke Gonzalez, it stars Roberto Soto, Tim Taylor, Jaime Santillana and Joe Caballero.

BEN STEGER hosts a fundraiser for his kickball documentary "We're gonna kick your ass!—The Official Story of Chicago's Unofficial Kickball League" Oct. 18 at the Blind Robin, 853 N. Western Ave., starting at 6 p.m.



"We're gonna kick your ass!"

Steger is in post-production on "kick your ass!" He documented the just-completed adult kickball season at Humboldt Park, culminating in the league's "prom" at the Darkroom.

"The film digs past the raucous exteriors of its subjects to uncover the motivations, fears, and philosophies driving the lives of a group of people who have, by and large, eschewed traditional avenues to adulthood," Steger said.

Chris Batte is producing through Batte and Steger's Humboldt Productions. Editor is Ian Miller. Humboldt is screening a five-minute trailer and a slide show

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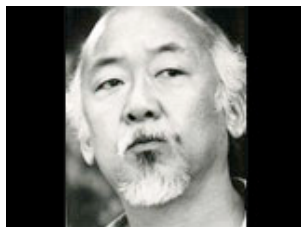
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Demos, Q&A, Exhibits, Reception

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of stills and selling t-shirts.

Raffle prizes include a custom skateboard by Brent Young, a sculpture by Jimbo, a tattoo by Max Brown of Revolution Tattoo, go-go lessons from The Janes, and dinner at Kuma's Korner. Email kickballdoc@yahoo.com.



Pat Morita

his final role, Adrienne Frantz ("The Bold and the Beautiful"), Eddie Jones ("Seabiscuit") and Max Gail ("Barney Miller").

See www.dreamscapecinema.com.

WILL CLINGER ("Stash," "Wild Chicago") stars in Keith Bearden's "Train Town" screening in the In Between Days shorts program at the Chicago International Film Festival.

"Train Town" plays out America's culture wars on the stage of a model train shop. Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Landmark's Century Centre, 2828 N. Clark St. See www.chicagofilmfestival.org.

NAT DYKEMAN'S Cinema Obscura DVD label releases its first two titles in stores Oct. 30: Joe Pacheco's documentary "As Smart As They Are" about lit-pop band One Ring Zero, and Lake County filmmaker John Covert's crime drama "Waiting for the Man."

Both titles are available for preorder on the label's website www.cinemaobscuradvd.com. Next year Dykeman will release Ruth Leitman's Southern Gothic family documentary "Alma," Bill Sebastian's romance "Midlothia," and Covert's films "The Blind Lead," "Shut-Eye," and "Girls & Buildings."

Dykeman runs the Lake County Film Festival, which is accepting submissions for its fifth iteration, to be held Feb. 28-March 2 at the College of Lake County. See www.lakecountyfilmfest.com.

MARK HARRIS' standup comedy film "Cut'N It Up Chicago" will be released in January 2008 by Indican Pictures and Triumphant Pictures. Alex Thomas hosts, with performances by Reggie Reg, Lil Rel, Rodney Perry, Sonja D, Shang, Pierre and Marcus Combs. See www.cutnitup.com.

Harris has completed post-production on the drama "I Used to Love Her," starring Toya Turner, Mel Roberson, Sheree Bynum, Tiffany J. Curtis, Lil Rel and Simeon Henderson. —*Ed M. Koziarski*

Ed M. Koziarski is in post-production on the feature film "The First Breath of Tengan Rei." Email: [Ed M. Koziarski](mailto:Ed.M.Koziarski)

BACKTALK for this Article

Share your great ideas, opinions, rants, whatever. This space is for you. Do it while you think of it.

Add Your Comment to BACKTALK



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