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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia welcomes its first local film festival

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(Columbia, MO) – Columbia is joining such cities as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Park City UT, Cannes, and others as the home of a film festival. On Friday August 18, locals will experience the Bargain Basement Film Festival for the first time.

Founders Aaron Davis and Peter Gerard have spent the last five months preparing for Columbia's first annual celebration of independent film. Filmmakers from around the world have been sending tapes to Columbia hoping to be included in Bargain Basement's diverse two-day program.

"We are happy to have international submissions, but we are thrilled to be showing some of mid-Missouri's finest films," Gerard said. The festival will feature films from Australia, Canada, all over the U.S. and the Columbia area. "It will be great for local filmmakers to have a chance to show their work to their neighbors."

Davis and Gerard expect to pack the new Ragtag Cinema for all seven screenings. "The audience will not only be mid-Missourians" Davis explained. "We are expecting filmmakers to come from as far as Montreal to attend the festival."

Bargain Basement Film Festival will feature three screenings of submissions on Friday night and three more on Saturday. In addition, local documentaries will be screened on Friday at midnight. David Wilson's documentary on Moberly, Magic City, will be back to back with Davis and Gerard's Out of Breath, a documentary on Columbia's youth.

"The great thing about Bargain Basement is our diversity of entertainment," Gerard said. "We received films of all genres and all skill levels. The final selection includes animation, narrative, experimental, and documentary films on a variety of subjects."

Festival-goers will have a chance to vote in the audience awards, giving their favorite films special recognition and prizes.

The theme of Bargain Basement is low budget. "Film should not be kept in the hands of millionaires in Hollywood. Anyone can create a masterpiece if she or he has the interest and the talent," Davis said. "Bargain Basement will show Columbia how great films can be made on spare change."

There will be screenings at 6pm, 8pm, 10pm and 12am Friday August 18 and at 4pm, 6pm, and 8pm on Saturday August 19 at Ragtag Cinemacafe, 23 N. 10th St. in downtown Columbia. Admission is \$12 for the entire festival or \$3 for each screening. Following the final screening on Saturday, Davis and Gerard will present awards. Complete details will be available on the festival website: <http://accidentalmedia.com/fest>

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