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**Columbia's Bargain Basement Film Festival to recognize St. Louis filmmakers**

(Columbia, MO) – Last year's Bargain Basement Film Festival turned mid-Missouri into the Park City for students and amateurs. Featuring films from Missouri alongside work from all over the world, the event was an incredible success. This August, co-founders Peter Gerard and Aaron Davis are bringing a larger selection of independent films to Ragtag Cinema in Columbia, Missouri.

Recent Webster graduate Amy R. Johnson is one of several St. Louis filmmakers whose work will be exhibited at the film festival from August 23-25. "Born to Foos" is an offbeat comedy looking at a factory worker's strange obsession with an intense small-town foosball competition. With excellent cinematography by Webster student Andrew DePunge, the short film demonstrates the low-budget talent that is abundant at Bargain Basement Film Festival.

"We're excited that there is so much going on in underground film in Missouri," Gerard says. "Missouri is an ideal place for a festival like ours." Gerard and Davis founded the festival in March 2000, commenting on the lack of a venue for independent filmmakers in Missouri. By showcasing local films alongside low-budget international works, they aim to shed some light on the artistic talent in our very own neighborhoods.

This year's festival will also feature several films from Columbia, as well as an animated short from St. Louis filmmaker Josef Millitzer. Millitzer's "Sausage" is an endearing claymation about the perils of a sausage machine.

Gerard and Davis are also proud to be presenting the U.S. Premiere of a new Brazilian feature film. "*Drought* was independently financed and produced for under \$100,000," Gerard explains. "Yet skilled hands made this feature a compelling social commentary. We are very lucky to be screening *Drought* to its first American audience here in mid-Missouri."

The film festival will be garnished by an array of unique and fun events. On Friday August 24, there will be a free Ramen Noodle cook-off as well as the famous Bargain Basement Ice Cream Social. Saturday will feature live music and parties.

Bargain Basement Film Festival will be held from August 23-25 at Ragtag Cinema at 23 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St. in Columbia, Missouri. Schedule details and summaries of all thirty-three films can be found on the festival website at [www.bbfilm.com](http://www.bbfilm.com). Amy R. Johnson can be reached at (314) 961 4030. Josef Millitzer can be reached at (314) 781 2365. Peter Gerard, a Columbia native, is a student at Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland. Aaron Davis lives and works in Columbia, where he is known for his past films. They can be reached at (573) 449-7504 or (573) 449-7557. Gerard and Davis are currently working on a documentary about the international graffiti-art movement.

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