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NEWCOMERS OWN NEARLY HALF OF 168 FEST'S FINALIST SPOTS
AS SPEED FILMMAKING CONTEST NARROWS FIELD TO 22

*Awards Contenders or Not, All 67 Submissions in Faith-Based Competition
to Screen at Apr. 3-4 Festival and be Eligible for Audience Awards*

LOS ANGELES (Mar. 14, 2009) -- Twenty-two short films out of 83 registered entries that resulted in 58 on-time submissions last month to the 7th annual 168 Film Project (www.168project.com) -- whereby filmmakers have seven days, or 168 hours, to shoot and edit an 11-min.-or-less short based on randomly assigned Bible verses -- have officially been named finalists for awards consideration, it was announced last week by 168 founder and executive director John David Ware.

Boasting 15 dramas (one of which stars and was co-written by "Saturday Night Live" alumnus Victoria Jackson), two comedies (one featuring 11 toddlers), one thriller, one musical and three documentaries (one by former radio personality at L.A.'s Power 106 Frank Lozano), the select films now advance to the next round of review by a seven-member industry jury that includes "X-Men" producer Ralph Winter and "The Pursuit of Happyness" executive producer Mark Clayman.

Jurists' ratings of the top-tier shorts across 18 awards categories, including Best Film, Best Scriptural Integration, etc., will determine 1) nominations to be announced later this week amid the build-up to the splashy, two-day 168 Film Festival Apr. 3-4 in Glendale, Calif., and 2) jury awards to be bestowed Apr. 4.

"We congratulate all those filmmakers who took the challenge and got it done in 168 hours," said Ware. "We have some great films in the running for nominations. And there are gems that did not qualify for jury awards consideration but are definitely worth seeing.

"Most encouragingly," he continued, "out of 22 awards-eligible films this year, 10 are from first-time 168 contestants who all were surprised at the intensity of the project, five are from out-of-state and four of foreign origin. We're witnessing a spike in scope, quality and reach. Having seen this year's films, I'm confident this is our best year yet. There is something for everyone."

A total of 67 films, including nine that were completed late, will unspool at the festival and contend for audience awards given out both nights, Fri. at the United Community Church and Sat. at the Alex Theatre.

Fest's program schedule will be determined after nominations are announced, both of which events will be posted online (see above), where list of this year's awards-eligible films can currently be found.

"We are overjoyed to be among the finalists up for awards," exclaimed producer Richard Juden, whose relationship thriller "Ashes to Apples," an extreme study of risk, consequence and responsibility, represents his first 168. Reflecting on how, during production, his cast and crew prayed for favorable weather and good locations, he said "I can tell you that the ministry of the 168 films is not limited to their message."

Complete list of awards-eligible films follows and includes titles, loglines, genre, names of producers, and state or country of origin, followed by list of awards categories.

(MORE)

168 FILM PROJECT'S AWARDS-ELIGIBLE FILMS FOR 2009:

	Title	Logline	Genre	Bible verse	Producer(s) of record*	State or country
NARRATIVES						
1	Abel's Wheels	Kid matchmaker hatches perfect plan for his dad	Dramedy	Mat 19:29	Rebekah Score Sara Messer	CA
2	Ashes to Apples	Young girl gets kidnapped and is forced to come to terms with her fate	Thriller	2 Cor 6:18	Richard Juden [†]	CA
3	The Call [†]	Daughter's refusal to take mark of the beast takes toll on family	Drama	Luk 18:29-30	David & Jerusha Kiang	CA
4	Father of the Man	Order from on High spawns conflict of loyalties	Drama	Gen 22:10-12	John O'Neal	CO
5	Great Oaks	Family's inheritance has grandpa splitting heirs	Drama	Pro 13:22	Laureen Trujillo [†] Jason Lewis [†] Sharon O'Leary-Martin [†]	CA
6	Grip	Greenhorn takes over the family business	Drama	Gen 4:8	Chris Ackerman Brandon Chandler Josh Holt Maddy Curley Scott McLean	CA
7	Help Wanted	Applicants face interview of a lifetime	Comedy	2 Sam 18:33	Rod Doell Ryan Skeet	Canada
8	Himig	Son's music ministry upsets family harmony	Drama	Mat 12:46-49	Priscilla Mayshle	Philippines
9	Joseph's Wheel of Destiny [◊]	"Kidding" around at the office irks co-worker	Comedy	Gen 37:3-4	Ian Eyre	CA
10	The Last Laugh [♥]	Comedy club owner's crisis no laughing matter	Drama	Gen 22:2	McCall Jones [†] Susan S. Shearer [†] Amber Deegan [†]	CA
11	The Last Obey	Son's Memory Lane not a dead end after all	Drama	Eph 6:1-3	Derek [†] & Heather [†] Butler	U.K.
12	Love is Good	Street musician and crusty preacher butt heads in turf war	Musical	Sol 4:10	Theo Love	CA
13	Putting the Ash Behind You	Father's passing sets stage for sparring brothers to bury the hatchet	Dramedy	Heb 12:7	Ryan Johnson [†]	TX
14	Saving Levi	Chinese farmer torn between abandoning baby or his obedience to the law	Drama	Luk 15:20-21	David Bradshaw Michael Ramsey	CA
15	Stealing Home	Resurfacing sibling welcomed home by restaurateur father but grilled by sister	Drama	Luk 15:29-32	Nathan Bettisworth [†]	CA
16	Still Born	Husband's disdain for his father gives birth to marital strife	Drama	Ecc 6:3	Andrew Librizzi [†]	TX
17	The Test	High schooler's college prospects hang on the right answers	Drama	Pro 1:8-10	Pat Smith [†] C.A.T.C.H. [†] Paige Cooper [†]	CA

*not necessarily complete or contractual

[†]168 first-timer[♥]starring 2005 Best Film's Best Actor Robert Wu ("A Temp For All Seasons")[◊]featuring 11 toddlers[†]starring and co-written by "SNL" alum Victoria Jackson

(MORE)

AWARDS-ELIGIBLE FILMS (CONT'D):

	Title	Logline	Genre	Bible verse	Producer(s) of record*	State or country
NARRATIVES (CONT'D)						
18	Unscripted	Shakespearean actor must learn to play the part of a good father for real	Drama	Luk 3:21-22	Jonathan Brown Jackie Sheppard Luke Walton	U.K.
19	Up in the Air*	Pilot navigates turbulent return of wayward wife	Drama	Hos 3:1	Doug Folsom Chris Roberts	UT
DOCUMENTARIES						
20	God Moves	Hip hop troupe dances all over town but not around the gospel	Docu	1 Tim 4:8	Deana Spyres†	OK
21	Guided	Puppy raisers unleash possibilities for the blind	Docu	Isa 42:16	Frank Lozano* Monique Newman	CA
22	Wheelchair Angel	Mobility of several rides on dedication of one	Docu	Mat 25:40	Don Maynard†	CA

*not necessarily complete or contractual

†168 first-timer

*directed by two-time Best Film-winning director Wes Llewellyn (2007's "A Good Day," 2003 "Cross Walk")

*director-producer of 2008 Best Documentary "Hole Hearted" and former Power 106 L.A. radio personality

AWARDS CATEGORIES:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Best Scriptural Integration | 11. Best Actor |
| 2. Best Film | 12. Best Actress |
| 3. Best Comedy | 13. Best Supporting Actor |
| 4. Best Screenplay – Drama | 14. Best Supporting Actress |
| 5. Best Screenplay – Comedy | 15. Best Editor |
| 6. Best Director | 16. Best Documentary Unlimited |
| 7. Best Cinematography | 17. Best International Film |
| 8. Best Sound Design | 18. Best Documentary (Behind the Scenes on a 168 Project) |
| 9. Best Original Score | |
| 10. Best Production Design | |

Films under consideration for Best Comedy and/or Best International Film may also be nominated for Best Film and end up winning one or all three distinctions.

To view clip reel of over 40 entries in this year's 168 Film Festival, visit www.168project.com.

For more information, and/or to schedule an interview with 168 founder/executive director John David Ware or any of the filmmakers, please contact Scotty Dugan at Dugan & Story PR at 435-901-1483, scotty@duganstory.com; 168 Film Project at 818-557-8507, info@168project.com or visit www.168project.com.

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