



Education
Arts &
Culture

For Immediate Release

Date: August 12, 2009

Contact Information: Melissa Turner, Communications Director (423) 425-7826 or
turner_m@mail.chattanooga.gov

Chattanooga, TN – **"Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Film Commission Announces
Brigand Shorts 2009"**

Brigand Pictures presents the first annual Brigand Shorts 2009 International Film Festival at the Tivoli Theatre on Saturday, August 29. This all-day event includes film screenings, a free street festival with live music, movie industry vendors, and food and beer concessions.

From 12 noon to 6:00 pm, the Tivoli will show the ten best short films chosen by movie industry judges for Brigand Shorts 2009. The judging panel includes Linda Olszewski (head of global acquisitions for Shorts International) and Nicole Southwell (IndieFlix.com). Over 100 films from 15 countries were submitted for consideration. The ten films chosen for the festival receive guaranteed international distribution as well as a small cash prize. All winning entries are short films, capped at 60 minutes, with an average length of 8-12 minutes. Admission to the afternoon screening is only \$5.

Outside the Tivoli Theatre, Broad Street will be closed between 12 noon and 6:00 pm for a free downtown street festival celebrating film in Chattanooga. The festival will host movie industry vendors as well as local schools with film-related programs. There will also be food and drink concessions, and live music provided by Downstream.

At 7:00 pm, Brigand Shorts 2009 will present a short awards ceremony followed by the world premiere of "Thick As Thieves," shot entirely on location in Chattanooga in 2008. This fast-paced action feature used local actors and film crews to tell the gripping story of a heist gone wrong. Admission to the premiere is \$15. There is a limited number of all-access VIP passes available for \$20 that include admission to all afternoon and evening events, as well as a gift bag with downtown coupons and a Brigand Shorts 2009 DVD.

Part of the proceeds from Brigand Shorts 2009 will benefit the Unbroken youth initiative under the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture.

About the Unbroken Youth Initiative: The mission is to create a coalition of community partners from creatively inspired, non-profit, education and the arts and media, government and corporate agencies, and individuals to reach at-risk youth through mentoring, tutoring and community events. The key focus for Unbroken is literacy and reading skills, while meeting mentoring and tutoring needs and addressing social issues through the arts in Unbroken communities.

Proceeds benefiting the Unbroken Youth Initiative will provide for Unbroken Film Projects for high school students in partnership with the Association for Visual Arts and film instructor Emily Bowman with Landstryder Productions.

For more information about Brigand Shorts 2009 or Brigand Pictures "Thick as Thieves" contact Ben Todd (765) 336-1062 or bt@brigandpictures.com.

For more information about the Chattanooga Southeast Tennessee Film Commission, the Unbroken youth initiative, or the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture contact Melissa Turner (423) 425-7826 or turner_m@mail.chattanooga.gov.

###