

Flick Fest

## Open House Set For Manchester Film Fest

By JESSE LEAVENWORTH | The Hartford Courant  
April 20, 2009

MANCHESTER — - To fuel momentum for the town's debut film festival, organizers will hold an open house on Thursday.

The Silk City Flick Fest is months away, but organizers say they want to gather residents, students, independent film makers, business people and members of the local and state arts communities and get them talking about the event, slated for Oct. 8-11.

"It's just to create energy and gain momentum for this fall," said Kevin Zingler, director of marketing at MARC Inc., the film festival's official charity partner.

The open house, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for 7 p.m. at MARC Inc., 352R W. Middle Turnpike. Beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be available. MARC, which serves disabled people in the town and region, is to receive 10 percent of all proceeds from the Flick Fest.

The festival will showcase the best independent and student-produced films from Connecticut and across the world, according to a news release. It will include an opening day gala at the historic Cheney Hall, followed by screenings at [Manchester Community College](#) and Parkade Cinemas.

The Flick Fest is being co-hosted by Cool Hand Pictures, a local video production and distribution company, and the Sawicki Agency, a financial services agency with offices in Manchester and other area towns.

Justin Morales of Cool Hand Pictures is the festival director. So far, Morales said, 15 to 20 films have been submitted, mostly from Connecticut residents, but also from the United Kingdom and [Brooklyn](#), N.Y. Festival organizers are seeking a wide variety of film types, including documentaries, shorts and full-length features. Students especially are encouraged to submit their films.

"We want them to see that it's a real industry and keep the dream alive," Morales said.

At the open house on Thursday, Manchester Art Association members will display artwork for sale, and the festival's program cover, by local artist Hans Weiss, will be unveiled, Zingler said.

More information about the festival, how to become a sponsor and how to submit films is available at [www.silkcityflickfest.com](http://www.silkcityflickfest.com), or by calling 860-646-6400