

Manchester — 05/12/2009

Silk City Film Festival hosts open house in anticipation of big event

BY TRICIA MCMANN ReminderNews

Although there was no red carpet, a recent gathering did feature one of the largest limousines in Connecticut, and a palpable air of building excitement.



Click the thumbnails above to see the full size pictures.

On Thursday, April 23, the Silk City Flick Fest and MARC, Inc. of Manchester hosted an open house event, inviting residents and companies to come and learn more about the film festival. The evening also included the unveiling of the festival's official artwork by international artist Hans Weiss.

The film festival, a first in the area, was the brain child of Justin Morales and Ryan Maloney of Cool Hand Pictures , LLC and John Ramaglia of The Sawicki Agency. Morales and Maloney, who are originally from Manchester, and Ramaglia, whose business is located in downtown Manchester, are accepting film submissions from all students and independent filmmakers worldwide. "We are already receiving submissions. One is even from the UK," said Ramaglia. The first Silk City Flick Fest is scheduled to be held from Thursday, Oct. 8, to Sunday, Oct. 11, 2009. The SCFF will showcase and celebrate the best Connecticut independent films and films from around the world that express originality and the unique views for which independent films are famous. Local businesses have already signed on to be sponsors and supporters in hopes of making this event successful and building it into something bigger and better in the years to come.

"When this was presented to the Board [of Directors], there was no hesitation on supporting this project," said Manchester Mayor Lou Spadaccini. "If you just dare to dream big and work towards success, it will be a great annual event. We are so proud that Manchester has been chosen to have it," the mayor added.

Both Morales and Ramaglia plan on weaving community involvement, independent films, historical relevance and family fun into the fabric of the Silk City Flick Fest, and 10 percent of all proceeds will be donated directly to MARC, Inc. "This is an exciting event that will bring thousands of people to Manchester," Ramaglia added.

For additional information, to submit your film or to become a sponsor, visit the Web site www.silkcityflickfest.com or call (860) 646-6400 .