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Like movies? Live bands? The Hell's Half Mile festival awaits

Posted by [Pati LaLonde](#) | [The Bay City Times](#) September 25, 2008 11:30AM
 Categories: [Top Feature](#), [Weekend Scene](#)



Courtesy photo

"Bitter and Twisted," directed by Australian filmmaker Christopher Weekes, centers around the death of a young man and the toll it takes on his family and friends three years later.

Christopher Weekes is a bit in awe.

The movie he premiered at the New York City's Tribeca Film Festival may become a series on American television.

The 28-year-old Australian can't believe how fast things sometimes happen in America.

"In Australia it takes eight years to make a film," he said. "Here you just jump right in."

Eight years is exactly what it took the filmmaker to bring "Bitter and Twisted" to screen.

"The movie I wrote when I was 20 was nothing like how the movie ended up," he said. "It was filled with aliens, people getting abducted, murders."

However, the basic idea didn't change.

Weekes' idea was to depict four strange characters living in an Australian suburb.

FILMS+MUSIC: FOUR DAYS' WORTH

What: Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival

When: Oct. 2-5

Where: The State Theatre, 913 Washington Ave.; Delta College Planetarium, 100 Center Ave.; Masonic Temple, Madison Avenue and Sixth Street

Cost: \$5 per film, \$10 per band. All-access passes are \$50, all-film passes are \$35 and all-music passes are \$18.

Info: www.hhmfest.com

TRAILERS:

Check out the trailers for the Hell's Half Mile film festival lineup:

["Run for your Life"](#)

["More Shoes"](#)

["Hell Drivers: America's Original Crash Test Dummies"](#)

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Instead of alien abductions, the movie is now about the death of a young man and the toll it takes on his family and friends three years later.

["The Auteur"](#)

["Leaving Barstow"](#)

["Murder, Spies and Voting Lies"](#)

"Bitter and Twisted" is one of the almost 40 feature-length films and shorts that make up this year's Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival. Eight bands are on the schedule as well.

["Reel Zombies"](#)

["Dakota Skye"](#)

The event kicks off Oct. 2 in conjunction with the First Thursday Gallery Walk. An opening reception from 5-8 p.m. takes place at A City Studio, 113 Third St., followed by the mid-Michigan premier of "More Shoes" at 8 p.m. at the State Theatre, 913 Washington Ave.

"More Shoes," a documentary by Lee Kazimir, follows the filmmaker's trek from Madrid to Kiev, the trials he faced and the interesting people he met along the way.

Kazimir will be on hand at A City Studio to visit and answer questions.

Alan LaFave, festival director, says another must-see movie is "Run for Your Life," the story of the immigrant who started the New York City Marathon.

"I'm not a runner but, wow, what a good film," LaFave said.

The film will be shown at 1 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Delta College Planetarium.

Aspiring filmmakers and film buffs have the chance to interact with the Hell's Half Mile filmmakers as well. A screenwriter workshop is planned at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 4 at the planetarium and a cinematography workshop is set for 3:30 p.m. that afternoon at the same location.

The cost of the workshops is \$40 each or \$60 for both.

A panel discussion with the filmmakers is planned at 1 p.m. Oct. 4 at the planetarium. The discussion is free and open to the public.

Tickets to the festival are \$5 per film or \$35 for all the films and are available at the State Theatre box office. Tickets for the music portion are \$10 per band or \$18 for all eight bands. All-access passes are \$50, which includes a filmmaker reception and happy hour. All-access passes and music passes are available at the Bay Arts Council office, 915 Washington Ave.

The complete Hell's Half Mile Film & Music Festival is available online at www.everythingtricity.com.

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