



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **First-ever Johnstown Film & Wine Festival set for July 13-15**

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. –The first-ever Johnstown Film Festival will be held July 13-15, showcasing the talent of filmmakers from across the region.

Screenings of selected entries will take place on Thursday, July 13 and Friday, July 14 from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at the Johnstown Flood Museum theater; tickets will be \$5 at the door. On Saturday, July 15 the top six entries and three winners will be screened in the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center courtyard. Tickets for the Saturday event, which include two wine tastings, are \$10 and may be purchased online at [www.jaha.org/filmfestival](http://www.jaha.org/filmfestival). (See enclosed information for screening schedule).

“I was moved and inspired by the breadth of work and technical skill as demonstrated by the films in competition,” said Andy Lasky, owner of the Westwood Plaza Theater and a competition judge. “This event has great potential to further stimulate the art of filmmaking in the Johnstown region – and in this new age of mass communications, the storyteller is more significant than ever.”

The festival was announced in early 2006, and the deadline for entries was April 30. Many of the participating filmmakers had some connection to Johnstown or western Pennsylvania, but there were entrants from as far away as Texas. There were over 50 films entered in the competition, representing a wide variety of genres – documentaries, animation, dramas, comedies and more. From these, volunteer judges selected the films to be screened and the winners. The top three films will receive cash prizes.

The film festival is the project of the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Initiative Class of 2006, which includes Mike Docherty, Matt Hughes, Lee Kring and Lynne Hood. The group is working with the Johnstown Area Heritage Association to produce the festival.

“We were excited by the level of interest and number of entries for the festival’s first year,” said Lee Kring, a festival organizer. “We’ve also had a great deal of support from the community.”

Andy Lasky will serve as host for the Saturday, July 15 event at the Heritage Discovery Center. The doors will open at 8:00 p.m., and screenings of the films will begin at dusk. Festival organizers indicated that several of the filmmakers plan to attend the event.

Each adult ticketholder will receive two wine tastings from a selection of wines. Wine will also be available for purchase by the glass. In addition, popcorn, beer, and other light refreshments will be available for purchase. Starbucks will also offer a complimentary selection of hot and cold beverages.

Any original short film of 30 minutes or less was eligible for the competition, which will include cash awards for first, second and third place. Films of all genres were accepted, and there is a special category for filmmakers aged 18 and under.

Several area organizations, in addition to JAHA, have been instrumental in supporting the planning of this event. Those include Concurrent Technologies Corporation and JWF Industries.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown’s unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. JAHA owns and operates the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, and produces the AmeriServ FolkFest, a 3-day free music and food festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; events commemorating the 1889 Johnstown flood; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden will soon open, and a Children’s Discovery Museum is being planned. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).