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## **CHARLOTTE FILM FESTIVAL OPENS AT LOCAL LANDMARK**

### **While Collecting Food For the Hungry**

**For Immediate Release - - Charlotte, N.C., 09.9.09** -- In celebration of the Park Terrace Cinema's 45th Anniversary, the Charlotte Film Festival will open its weeklong celebration at the local landmark Sept. 21 with a screening of "Dr. Strangelove." Moviegoers can get in free with canned goods or other non-perishable items that will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

While growing up in Charlotte, Jennifer Bratyanski, the film festival's program director, spent most of her allowance on movies at Park Terrace Cinema.

"I love the fact that the building most of us pass by on a weekly basis contains 45 years of memories for thousands of Charlotteans," she said. "We've laughed and cried together at Park Terrace – is the perfect place to open the festival."

And why not start with another classic! Also turning 45 this year, "Dr. Strangelove" is a guide to some of the oddest most secretive chapters of the Cold War. The Stanley Kubrick film about nuclear-war plans that run amok is heralded as one of the greatest satires in American political and movie history.

The dark comedy will be followed by the festival's opening night film, "In/Significant Others" directed by local filmmaker John Schwert, who will in attendance with his cast. The film, shot in Charlotte, is a multi-narrative drama that navigates through the different lives of one city's residents.

The Charlotte Film Festival is determined to bring exposure to undiscovered talent and great cinema to Charlotte. The non-profit organization is also committed to educating the public while building global and local partnerships. This year, organizers hope to bring awareness to the need for food in our community.

The struggling economy and rising number of unemployed residents have increased the needs in Charlotte where more people are relying on the food bank and other charitable agencies for help. There also is less to go around.

Last summer, the Second Harvest Food Bank had collected 40,000 pounds of items from food drives compared to 22,000 this year.

"It's tough," said Toni Morris, the food bank's food drive coordinator. "We feed everybody."

The food bank provides a regional distribution warehouse and branches that supply food and grocery items to numerous agencies that help the needy. About 15 percent of the service area lives in poverty and includes more than 150,000 children and senior citizens.

The film festival's goal is raise 500 pounds of non-perishables on opening night to donate to the cause. Please come early to the screening. Donations will be accepted until 6:15 p.m. Seats and tickets are limited so please come early.

The Charlotte Film Festival is a project of Indie Film Force, a non-profit organization committed to showcasing great storytelling, and featuring and debuting groundbreaking independent films. Visit our new site [charlottefilmfestival.org](http://charlottefilmfestival.org) for more information about films and ticket sales. Also look for us on Facebook and Twitter.

For more information please go to [warriorchampions.com](http://warriorchampions.com) and [www.charlottefilmfestival.org](http://www.charlottefilmfestival.org). For more information contact Victoria Cherrie, Public Relations Director at 704.615.4789 (m) or 704.342.5030 (o) or at [vcherrie@charlottefilmfestival.org](mailto:vcherrie@charlottefilmfestival.org).

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