



cleveland international film festival

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THE 31st CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TO OPEN WITH: SWEDISH AUTO

(OPENING NIGHT SPONSOR: DOLLAR BANK)

SWEDISH AUTO, an enticing drama directed by Derek Sieg and produced by Clevelander Tyler Davidson, will open the 31st Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF) on Thursday, March 15th.

About SWEDISH AUTO: In the opening sequence, Carter (Lukas Haas) impassively gazes at his surroundings through the windshield of a broken-down Volvo. An orphan with few friends, Carter rarely interacts with the world around him. He spends his days working as a mechanic at Leroy's Swedish Auto Shop, fixing cars that he never drives. He spends his nights roaming the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia watching people to whom he never talks. His co-workers Leroy and Bobby encourage Carter to do something with other people, but little interests Carter besides obsessively but innocently stalking the beautiful, talented violinist Ann Shelton. Carter's days remain indistinguishable and monotonous until he discovers he too is being watched. As he develops a relationship with the endearing but troubled waitress Darla (January Jones), Carter must decide whether he will continue to be a bystander to life or experience it firsthand.

SWEDISH AUTO is a Lab Entertainment Group production presented by Albemarle Films, Evil Number 30, and Wildcat Hollow.

Tickets to the Opening Night Gala, sponsored by Dollar Bank, are \$125 per person (\$100 for CFS members). The Gala includes the film at 7:00 p.m. at Tower City Cinemas, followed by a **SWEDISH AUTO** party at 9:00 p.m. at MK Ferguson Plaza in Tower City Center.

Special guests that evening will include Derek Sieg and Tyler Davidson. A native of Charlottesville, Virginia, Derek Sieg attended the University of Virginia and the New York Film Academy. As a film student, he directed both short films and music videos. He also gained experience through working on several popular feature films and television programs. Known to Cleveland audiences for his film "The Year That Trembled" (26th CIFF), Tyler Davidson was also the recipient of the Midwest Independent Filmmaker of the Year Award in 2002.

For more information on **SWEDISH AUTO**, contact David Budin, MediaWrite Communications, 216.791.5149, popcycles@sbcglobal.net.

For more information on the 220+ films that will be shown between Opening Night and Closing Night of the Film Festival, log on to www.clevelandfilm.org. Tickets go on sale to members only on Friday, February 23rd and to the general public on Friday, March 2nd. Ticket prices for most films are \$8 per film for CFS members, \$10 for non-members, and \$8 for students/seniors (day of show only). Tickets are available online at www.clevelandfilm.org, by telephone (1-866-865-FILM), at the CIFF store in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas, or by mail or fax using the Preview Guide order form. Preview Guides will be available after February 22nd.

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