

# Developments at the Fort Worth's Lone Star Film Festival

BY MICHAEL H. PRICE - Fort Worth Business Press

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Fort Worth's Lone Star International Film Festival has announced November's dates and venues for a second annual event. Among film-industry figures taking part will be Martin Sheen, the festival's Life Achievement Award honoree for 2007.

The organization has selected longtime broadcasting personality and film journalist Bobbie Wygant as honorary film-fest chair.

The five-day festival will take place Nov. 12-16, boasting a selection of motion pictures — narrative features, documentaries and short pieces — from international sources. Venues will include the AMC Palace Theatre, Four Day Weekend Theater, Scott Theatre, Norris Conference Center, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and the Kimbell Art Museum. Additional venues appear likely.

Sponsored by the Lone Star Film Society, the festival promotes the work of emerging filmmakers through competition and showings. The stated objective is “to cultivate global cultural awareness through the art of the moving image.”

Martin Sheen has agreed to return to Fort Worth to present the Life Achievement Award for 2008, festival director Dennis Bishop said. Sheen will also participate in the selection of the honoree.

Bobbie Wygant, a familiar television presence for more than 50 years, brings to the occasion a range of experience including pride-of-place as the first woman to anchor and produce a general-interest television program in the Southwest. She is an Emmy Award recipient, so honored in 2004 by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

“I feel like this is the beginning of something wonderful,” Wygant said. “The Lone Star International Film Festival is the fastest-growing cultural event in Fort Worth ... I am happy and honored to lend my support.”

The festival will open Nov. 12 with a celebration of local cultural heritage and screenings for various community-service organizations. Nov. 13 will see a gala event at the AMC Palace Theater downtown.

“Last year’s festival was a great beginning to our pursuit of creating a truly original film festival,” said Bishop.

The festival’s debut in 2007 brought 156 films to Fort Worth, with attendance exceeding 5,000 people. Attractions included interactive panel discussions and appearances by prominent filmmakers and industrial professionals. Visiting artists included Bill Paxton, Martin Sheen, Robert Rodriguez and Harry Dean Stanton.

Festival Passes will be available for sale on Sept. 8. The Web address is [www.lsiff.com](http://www.lsiff.com).