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### ***DESCENT TO TOUR WITH MANHATTAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL***

Manhattan, New York (September 5, 2004) – Honored with its eighth official film festival selection, *Descent* has been chosen as one of the top twelve of more than 800 submissions from around the world for the seventh annual Manhattan Short Film Festival.

Formed in 1998, The Manhattan Short Film Festival is a unique experience for visitors to New York's famous Union Square Park. At each end of the park, Manhattan Shorts erects three large projection screens and plays their festival selections to the visiting public. Over 75,000 people venture through the park on any given Saturday night and the Manhattan Shorts program has often drawn much of that crowd for its program. The event is free and open to the public.

In addition to the Union Square screening, held on Saturday, September 18, 2004, the Manhattan Short Film Festival tours six other cities around the United States: Cambridge, Massachusetts; Bloomington, Indiana; Waterville, Maine; Concord, New Hampshire; Portland, Oregon and Nashville, Tennessee.

In previous years, a panel of Motion Picture Industry professionals judged a single Best Film winner from the Manhattan Short Program. This year, the American public will judge the twelve finalists. Audience members in seven states will have the chance to view the twelve finalists' short films and vote for their favorite. Every person attending the festival will be allowed to vote for the one film / filmmaker that they feel should go on to create a feature film. The winner, who will be announced after the festival in New York City, September 18th, will receive a generous grant which includes rentals of camera, grip and lighting equipment and more than \$50,000 worth of post-production services to apply to a feature project.

*Descent* is a short thriller from director Jay Holben, whose previous short films include the Stephen King adaptation *Paranoid* and the coming-of-age drama *The Night Before*. The noir thriller follows the tale of a woman who, several weeks after witnessing the murder of her best friend, finds herself trapped in an elevator with the killer.

For more information on The Manhattan Short Film Festival and a short interview with director Jay Holben, visit [www.msfilmfest.com](http://www.msfilmfest.com).

For more information on *Descent*, including specific screening locations and times for all seven cities, visit the official website at [www.adakin.com/descent](http://www.adakin.com/descent).

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