



LEXARTS

LexArts Presents Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers
Counting Backwards with director Aprill Winney

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Lexington, KY, October 17, 2008 --- Lexarts presents *Counting Backwards* with director Aprill Winney as part of the Southern Arts Federation's Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers at the Lexington Public Library – Central Branch, 140 East Main Street on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Following a screening of her narrative feature film, Winney will engage the audience in a discussion about the film and her work as a filmmaker. This event is FREE and open to the public.

In *Counting Backwards*, Joe is diagnosed with leukemia the day after he meets Claire, the woman of his dreams. Choosing not to reveal his illness to Claire, Joe refuses treatment so that he can spend his remaining days living the life that he always wanted. He begins writing a novel about his experiences as both a method for coping and an attempt at a legacy. As Joe turns the comedic disasters of his life into fantastic triumphs of fiction, a devastated Claire walks out of his life. *Counting Backwards* tells the story of one man's struggle to transform his life and embrace romance and passion in the time he has left. *Counting Backwards* stars Benjamin Montague, Elaine Robinson, Morgan McCabe and Cliff Chamberlain.

The Seattle True Independent Film Festival acknowledged *Counting Backwards* as Most Triumphant and the Chashama Film Festival awarded the film with the Best Narrative Feature, Best Director, and Best Actor awards. *Counting Backwards* has also screened at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Director Aprill Winney was born and raised in the Sequoia National Forest of central California. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in theatre, she moved to Chicago to work in the city's thriving theatre scene. For four years she served as a dramaturg for theatres such as Steppenwolf, Goodman, Naked Eye and Uma Productions. With Disposable Theatre she directed several plays and performance art pieces including *Information for Foreigners* by Griselda Gambaro, and *bits and scraps*. A local film producer noticed Winney in the *bits and scraps* production at Chicago's Around the Coyote Arts Festival and asked her to participate in the feature film collaboration *Brushfires*, produced by Splitpillow Films. *Brushfires* was an official selection at the Phoenix International Film Festival, Philadelphia Film Festival, Seattle Film Festival and the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Winney resides in Los Angeles where she makes her living as a script supervisor.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of the Southern Arts Federation, a not-for-profit regional arts organization making a positive difference in the arts throughout the South since 1975. Southern Arts Federation is supported by funding and programming partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts and the state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. For more information on the Southern Arts Federation and its programs visit www.southarts.org.

About LexArts

LexArts is a non-profit community organization that works for the development of a strong and vibrant arts community as a means of enhancing the quality of life in Central Kentucky. LexArts provides a wide range of programs designed to integrate the arts into our daily lives. Through its annual *Campaign for the Arts*, LexArts has raised millions of dollars in support of local arts. In turn, LexArts underwrites the operating expenses for a variety of beneficiary organizations, offers affordable exhibition and performance space for arts organizations, as well as competitive grants for community outreach projects. Visit LexArts website at www.lexarts.org.

Major support for LexArts programs and services is provided by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports LexArts with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.