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Atlanta Filmmaker Takes Two Films to Cannes

May 3, 2007 (Atlanta) — Well known Atlanta actor, writer, and director Ken Feinberg is premiering, not one, but two short films at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. *Seven Generations* and *Hearts and Souls* will screen as part of the Short Film Corner market of the venerated festival. Both films were written and directed by Feinberg, an Atlanta native and University of Georgia graduate. He has a 20-year career in film and theater, and has made numerous appearances on television as an actor in shows such as *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *The District*, *Alias*, *Charmed*, and *Star Trek Enterprise*.

“I’ve always wanted to be in Cannes...I submitted my first film to Cannes,” said Feinberg, who just finished a stint as Executive Director of the Georgia Big Picture Conference in Atlanta.

That first film was *Coming and Going* (1999), shot in Covington, Georgia — in the same cabin where scenes from *My Cousin Vinny* (1992) were also filmed. But *Coming and Going* didn’t make it into Cannes.

“That original film was about 20 minutes long. I was too young of a filmmaker and it’s a very mature piece. I had a producer who said, you know you’ve already done it, it’s behind you, move on to the next one. But always in the back of my mind, I’d think, ‘Oh I’d like to cut this out, chop it down.’” And that’s what Feinberg did earlier this year. *Hearts and Souls* is the re-edited version of *Coming and Going*, a film that was destined for Cannes, it seems.

Feinberg’s other film premiering at Cannes is *Seven Generations*, which was adapted from a novel he wrote and funded by an actress who needed a demo reel. Feinberg wrote the novel, *The Other Side of Now*, while on a writing retreat that began the weekend of Sept. 11, 2001.

“I was in LA and I had signed up for this writer’s retreat in Sedona, when 9/11 came. I was going to cancel, but then I decided to go. So I was in Sedona, Arizona the weekend after 9/11, which was a great place to be. I went there with an idea for a short film—the next thing I know, I’m writing a novel. I came back to LA six weeks later and had the whole first draft written.”

Feinberg adapted a scene from the novel for actress Nalini Sharma’s demo reel. (She executive-produced and starred in *Seven Generations*.) After finding the perfect location in Talking Rock, Georgia, and hiring and transporting the crew, he realized that it wouldn’t cost any more to shoot for the entire day.

“I said to Nalini, why not stretch it out and make a short out of it? We’ve got this perfect location, we’ve got the crew, and everybody’s going to be in Talking Rock anyway?” explained Feinberg. The one-day, mini-DV shoot produced both Sharma’s demo reel and the 8-minute short now set to premiere at Cannes.

“My intention now is to go there and use it as a sales piece to parlay it into a feature film, or sell the novel, or both,” said Feinberg, jostling two cell phones ringing simultaneously as he prepares for the journey to France.

Feinberg will be in Cannes from May 16-27. While there, he will be producing a videoblog to be posted on www.myspace.com/kenfeinbergfilms.

ABOUT KEN FEINBERG:

Ken Feinberg is the owner of Atlantic Station Studios, which provides rental space for casting, classes, events, photography studio, and production offices. He also teaches the Director’s Boot camp and Writer’s Boot Camp for aspiring directors and writers. Feinberg completed a three-year mystical study program as well as a two-and-a-half-year certification as a relationship coach.

ABOUT THE SHORT FILM CORNER:

Launched in 2004 by the Festival de Cannes, the Short Film Corner is part of the Marché du Film (the Film Market) at Cannes, where filmmakers can showcase short films to potential buyers. More than 3,000 companies from 80 different countries will be attending, attesting to the global attraction.

High resolution photos and captions are available for download at:
http://www.7generationsfilm.com/7generations_pr.html.

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