

LIGHTS, CAMERA, BROOKLYN!

The fourth annual Art of Brooklyn Film Festival

The cultural landscape of New York City is crowded. When something new appears, the first question is "So, what makes YOU different?" The Art of Brooklyn Film Festival, a Brooklyn Chamber member, has a great answer!

AoBFF is the only independent, international film festival in the world built entirely around Brooklyn. Every film must have a connection to Kings County. Filmmakers are from here or live and work here, or use Brooklyn as a location or a major inspiration. And rather than attach itself to any specific neighborhood or community, AoBFF embraces Brooklyn as a whole.

"When people learn about us, they always say the same thing: Why hasn't anyone done this before? They love that we're all Brooklyn, all the time," said AoBFF Executive Director Joseph Shahadi. "We had 2,000 guests last year, double our 2012 crowd."

Founded in 2011 by Brooklyn-born and

based working artists, AoBFF keeps growing. This year will see screenings in Brooklyn Heights, Downtown, Clinton Hill and for the first time, Bay Ridge.

2014 official selections include "Dreams For Sale," a documentary about the fight to preserve the authentic spirit of Coney Island, and a fantasy short called *The Life and Death of Tommy Chaos and Stacey Danger*. "The quality of our films is off the charts... I'm so impressed by these filmmakers," said Festival Director Jason Cusato.

Hollywood has taken notice too. Returning festival judge, actor Annabella Sciorra (*Sopranos*, *Jungle Fever*) said "I love what AoBFF is doing. Their mission to focus on Brooklyn films and filmmakers speaks to me because I was born and raised here, and it influenced who I am as an artist." Another judge, director Elliott Lester (*Blitz*) said AoBFF "could be Brooklyn's Tribeca."

Borough Hall is also joining in, hosting fes-

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tival events for the first time. Borough President Eric Adams supports AoBFF's mission to welcome every neighborhood and commu-

nity to their party.

The 2014 AoBFF runs May 7-11. For schedule and tickets visit aobff.org. ■