



Xwhaves – a new event at the 2005 Woods Hole Film Festival

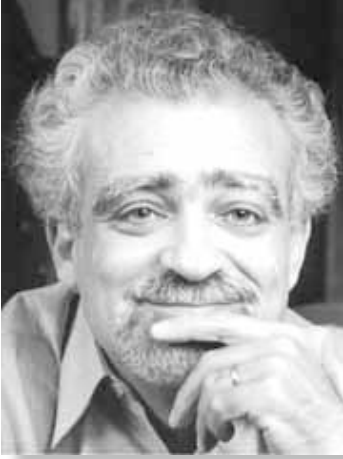
Content, in all formats, is being developed everywhere we look. From expensive variable frame rate HD cameras to sleek megapixel digital still cameras capable of delivering full-frame digital video on postage stamp-sized flash cards; from high-end scientific video apparatus that can remotely see in places deep in the ocean far from humanly possible to cell phones that can stream content wirelessly in the palm of your hands, our ability to capture digital imagery-- to tell digitally constructed and edited stories-- is becoming easier and extremely accessible.

While this bloom in the ability to create smaller and easier tools for digital storytelling has grown in leaps and bounds with the shrinking of chips and the improvement of imaging technology, so too have the possibilities for how these stories get seen.

For the past two years, the Woods Hole Film Festival has included information and events based on bringing information to the filmmaking community about the most recent advances in production technology. This year, the event has crystallized into a new and exciting program called *Xwhaves*. Dan Berube and Jon Goldman, two board members of the Woods Hole Film Festival and producers themselves, envisioned *Xwhaves* as a way to look at this convergence of media and opportunity by posing the following question: Where is this digital wave taking us?

The mission of *Xwhaves*, which helps kick off the Woods Hole Film Festival's opening weekend on Sunday, July 31st to Monday, August 1st, is to create a space and programming dedicated to exploring the dynamic convergence of media, filmmaking and new forms of acquisition and distribution. Filmmakers, filmgoers, citizen journalists, podcasters, broadcasting specialists and media artists will convene to discuss the role distribution will play in the future and has played in the current media spectrum.

Distribution, telephony and networking opportunities abound for today's filmmaker, the producer and all related industries. "With *Xwhaves*, we are providing an opportunity for filmmakers and Woods Hole Film Festival attendees to interact and understand new creative outlets and discuss the use of new tools for digital storytelling and digital cinema," states Berube. "We wish to create an open space in which conversations raise and discuss questions about how today's filmmaker and everyday citizen can embrace and integrate this convergence of media as ubiquitous in their lives and their storytelling."



Xwhaves will be hosted by award-winning radio and television producer **Tony Kahn**, who will lead a lively discussion with both the audience and experts on filmmaking, media business and distribution, internet, podcasting and citizen media, exploring the direction of this convergence of instant media and distribution, and the changing role of distribution opened up by the potential of the web, broadcast, satellite and cable based programming.

A fervent podcaster himself, Tony Kahn brings many award-winning talents to his duties on *The World*, the PRI/BBC international news magazine produced at Boston media outlet WGBH. Kahn serves as alternate host and special correspondent and writes, produces and hosts *Tony Kahn's Journal*, exploring cultural, political and scientific topics of importance, often using as a focal point remarkable individuals whose stories offer a unique perspectives. *The World* is heard by more than one million and a quarter listeners each week on public radio stations across the country, as well as in parts of Africa, Europe and Asia. Kahn has also written, produced, narrated and hosted more than 50 radio and television programs and series for PBS, National Public Radio, amongst others, and for Boston media outlets WGBH and WCVB. He was most recently acclaimed for his public radio series *BLACKLISTED*, which chronicled the Hollywood blacklisting of his screenwriter father Gordon Kahn during the McCarthy era.

In addition, Kahn is a regular panelist on WGBH/NPR's weekly witty word game show, *Says You!*, and is a regular commentator for Public Radio International's *Marketplace* and NPR's *Morning Edition*.

Joining Kahn and comprising an integral part of *Xwhaves'* program:

- **David Lyman**, Founder of the International Film Workshops in Rockport, Maine, who brings over 35 years of film and television industry experience to bear, will help Kahn open up the conversation with a morning coffee panel focused on where the industry and its' means of distribution has traditionally taken us.

- Independent filmmakers from the Boston community who will be joined by creative talent from local production house **National Boston** to explore issues in going completely digital to film and distribute features and shorts in HD.

- **Steve Garfield**, an independent digital filmmaker and fervent citizen journalist, who will be joined by other luminaries in the field for an in-depth "unpanel" with



demonstrations on new distribution models available to today's filmmaker. Time Magazine recently described Garfield as a filmmaker who "belongs to a small but growing legion of video bloggers, or vloggers, who are turning the Web into a medium in which someday anyone could conceivably mount original programming, bypassing the usual broadcast networks and cable outlets."

As a highlight of *Xwhaves*, Kahn will screen works from and interview two filmmakers who work in remote parts of the World, yet through the advent of technology have been able to gain international attention.



Kidlat Tahimik, an award-winning visionary Filipino filmmaker, whose recent work with the Ifugao tribes has led him to introduce a remote society to the art of digital filmmaking with digital cameras and by teaching editing as a way to preserve their culture in Northern Luzon. "It is simple footage, like home movies," says Kidlat (whose tagalog name means "silent lightning"), "but it is the act of preserving the rituals and customs that bridges this great digital divide."



Kidlat will attend the Festival and also present screenings of his earlier much acclaimed films *TURUMBA* and *PERFUMED NIGHTMARE*, described by Werner Herzog as "one of the most original and poetic works of Film made anywhere in the 70's..."

Kidlat will be joined by **Art C. Smith**, a documentary filmmaker who has spent the past two and a half years living remotely with his partner as a two-person filmmaking team on the North Slope of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (A.N.W.R.).



Smith has formed an online educational initiative, the [*Aurora Education Project*](#), using digital cameras, mobile editing and satellite conferencing gear to upload images, video, audio and commentary to bring awareness to the climatic changes taking place inside

A.N.W.R. Smith will screen segments of his upcoming documentary feature, *DIVINE OF THE MADDENING*, and share how he has been able to adapt to and become accepted as part of the surroundings by wildlife in order to bring the message of A.N.W.R. to the public. Because of Smith's remote presence in A.N.W.R., he has been successful in building relationships with journalists in national media outlets, providing a unique perspective on how the fate of A.N.W.R. will impact on our lives.



Both Kidlat and Smith will have individual screenings later during the week as part of the Festival. As an interactive element to *Xwhaves*, a week-long series of filmmaker interviews and podcasts will be recorded and uploaded to the Festival's website, and shown as a highlight during the last day of the Festival. "We not only wish to make available online what takes place during *Xwhaves* but we want to provide opportunities for the filmmakers to actually use these new tools for distribution to interview each other about their films and what it means for them to be a part of Woods Hole Film Festival," states Berube.