

Tisch Headliners



Rodney K. Hurley/Long Island University



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Matt Otto



courtesy Rachel Helson



courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

Faculty member Sam Pollard at the award ceremony for the George Polk Awards.

Martin Scorsese '64, '68

Christopher Shinn '97

Top: Andy Samberg '00 and Isla Fisher in *Hot Rod*.
Bottom: Rachel Helson with her star Kevin Cahoon '93.

Maura Tierney '89 and Paul Rudd in *Diggers*.

DIRECTOR SPIKE LEE '82,'98 (Artistic Director, Graduate Film Program) and his longtime collaborator, Editor/Producer **SAM POLLARD** (Faculty, Film & TV), received the George Polk Award for the documentary *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. The George Polk Award recognizes excellence in American journalism. Lee and Pollard won the award for documentary television for illustrating evidence of the U.S. government's poor performance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Director **MARTIN SCORSESE** (Washington Square College '64, Steinhardt '68; Tisch Dean's Council Member) finally has the Oscar. The Tisch community let out a collective cheer when the legendary director was bestowed with the long overdue distinction for directing at the February 25th ceremony. He won for the latest of his crime dramas *The Departed*. The film won four Oscars in total, including Best Motion Picture of the Year.

PLAYWRIGHT CHRISTOPHER SHINN'S '97 latest work, *Dying City*, received much critical acclaim during its American premiere at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center in New York (February–April 2007), as well as a Lucille Lortel Award nomination for "Outstanding Play." *Dying City*, which opened at London's Royal Court Theatre, explores how historical events, such as 9/11 and the Iraq war, have transformed the lives of three closely-linked characters. Shinn's plays have been produced by Playwrights Horizons, the Manhattan Theater Club and the Vineyard Theater, but the Lincoln Center Theater show marked his biggest American production to date.

ANDY SAMBERG '00 stars in the new film *Hot Rod* about a stuntman preparing for the motorcycle jump of his life. Samberg made the film with his friends SNL Writers Jorma Taccone and Akiva Schaffer. The three make up the sketch comedy group The Lonely Island and are best known for the hugely popular SNL Digital Short *Lazy Sunday*.

RACHEL HELSON, a Tisch Freshman in the Undergraduate Drama program, became the youngest producer on Broadway when she spearheaded *The Rocky Horror Tribute Show* at the American Airlines Theatre on April 16th. Rachel, who has witnessed four aunts battle breast cancer, planned the event as a benefit for Susan G. Komen For the Cure, a foundation dedicated to eradicating breast cancer through research and community activism. The benefit—starring Neil Patrick Harris as "The Narrator" and **KEVIN CAHOON '93** as "Dr. Frank 'N' Furter"—raised more than \$30,000 for breast cancer research. Other Tisch players included current students **MICHAEL SUTHERLAND** (Undergraduate Drama), **HARRISON HILL** (Undergraduate Drama), **SARA FRAZIER** (Undergraduate Drama), **NATHAN NORRINGTON** (Undergraduate Drama), and **CHRISTOPHER NEUBAUER** (Undergraduate Drama).

MAURA TIERNEY '89 co-stars with Paul Rudd and Lauren Ambrose in the film *Diggers*, penned by **KEN MARINO '91**. Marino drew inspiration from his father's experience as a clam-digger for the screenplay for his first feature film. Tierney is best known for her long-running television roles on *ER* and *NewsRadio*. Marino has appeared in a host of television programs including *Reno 911* and *Dawson's Creek*. He is also a member of The State comedy troupe with fellow Tisch alums **MICHAEL IAN BLACK** and **DAVID WAIN '91**, who also signed on as executive producer of the film.

JONATHAN STERN '89 is co-producer.

THE NEXT REEL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL will take place from October 7–14 in Singapore in conjunction with the official opening of Tisch School of the Arts Asia. First established in 1994, the Next Reel International Festival was the first forum of its kind in the United States to spotlight the work of young filmmakers from around the globe. This year's festival will showcase more than 60 films, feature panel discussions and seminars by industry experts and offer approximately \$30,000 in cash prizes and awards. The event will kick off with a presentation from **BRETT RATNER '90** of his film *Rush Hour 3*. For more information, go to www.nextreel.org.