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FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO MANAWATU

The annual NZ International Film Festival returns to Palmerston North in August with *Beasts of the Southern Wild* confirmed as the opening night film.

"Opening with Sundance hit, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, NZIFF gives Palmerston North movie lovers the chance to sample the best of international cinema hot on the heels of the world's most prestigious Film Festival – and in many cases months ahead of Festival audiences in London, New York, Rome," says Festival Director Bill Gosden

Beasts of the Southern Wild won the Grand Jury prize (Dramatic) at Sundance and the Camera d'Or (Best First Film) at Cannes earlier this year. Organisers of the Festival are hoping for strong local support for the international programme which will make use of Downtown Cinemas' digital projection technology.

"We've embraced a revolution. The digitisation of film has been immense and rapid in the last 12 months. Digital Cinema Package (DCP) equipment in Downtown Cinemas' cinema 8 has made a full Festival in Palmerston North possible this year. Over 50% of the film titles will screen from DCP in the 2012 programme." says Gosden.

The NZIFF will screen from August 16 and run to September 2 at Downtown Cinemas.
The full NZIFF programme is now available online. Copies of the brochures are available from Downtown Cinemas, Broadway Avenue.

For Festival updates visit www.nzff.co.nz and register to receive e-newsletters.

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For further information about the NZ International Film Festival or to arrange an interview with Director Bill Gosden:

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