

# BLOCK

Downtown Columbia — The Capital of Southern Hospitality

May/June 2007 Volume 6 Number 3

## Indie Grits and Donen Film Festivals Bring Best of Cutting Edge Film to Columbia

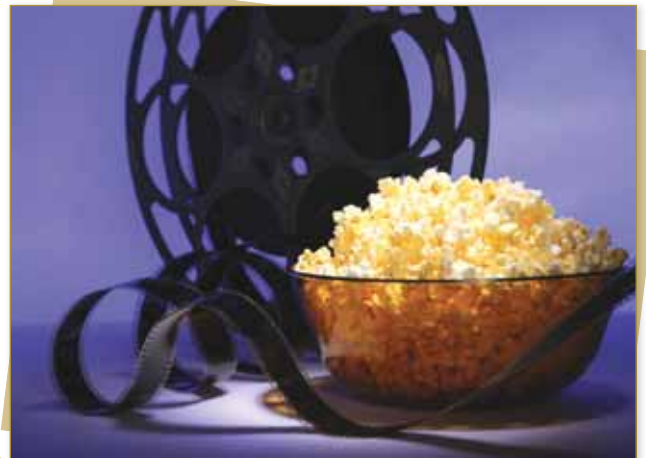
The First Annual Donen Film Festival and the Indie Grits Film Festival will be held May 30 – June 3, 2007. Over these four days, the festivals will bring a range of cutting-edge film to Columbia, in venues across the city.

The Donen Film Festival, named in honor of Academy Award winning, Columbia native Stanley Donen, will spotlight works from prominent South Carolina filmmakers. Alex English Jr.'s *Lumera* will kick off the festival with a screening at the Columbia Museum of Art on May 31. Greenville filmmaker Jeff Sumeral will host a program of his latest work as well as a discussion on independent filmmaking at the

Nickelodeon Theatre on June 1. The festival will conclude with a grand screening of Julian Adam's *The Last Confederate: The Story of Robert Adams* on the grounds of the Hampton Preston Mansion on the evening of June 2. The Indie Grits Film Festival will take place concurrently with the Donen Film Festival, and will feature screenings of cutting-edge, independent film and video from all across the Southeast.

Andy Smith, Executive Director of the First Annual Donen Film Festival and the Indie Grits Film Festival, added, "We are proud to honor Stanley Donen's amazing career with this festival. We understand that Mr. Donen

was strongly influenced by all of the films he watched as a child, right here in Columbia. We hope that by bringing more film-related events like the Donen and Indie Grits Film Festival to Columbia, we'll be encouraging and influencing the development of the next Stanley Donen." For more information contact Andy Smith at 803.254.8234. ☺



## Meridian Welcomes Smith Barney to Main Street

Meridian, located at 1320 Main Street, is pleased to welcome its newest occupant, Smith Barney, to the block. Smith Barney is a division of Citigroup Global Capital Markets Inc., a global, full-service financial firm that provides brokerage, investment banking, and asset management services to corporations, governments, and individuals around the world. Smith Barney will add 45 employees to their new 14,000 square-foot office by the end of July. ☺

# Mayor Coble Promotes Retail Strategy

Mayor Bob Coble has been expressing his plans for further development of downtown retail. Coble has taken over where Terry Brown, CEO of Edens & Avant and Vice Chairman of City Center Partnership, left off last November. Brown had asked the city for more assistance with retail incentives, amenities, and tax-increment financing, in hopeful efforts of enticing developers to take more risks with larger retail projects downtown.

Coble reinforces Brown's message, and while speaking to the

Columbia Rotary Club last month, he narrowed it down to the following five issues: 1) Effective coordination with the private sector; 2) The correct mix of incentives such as loans and façade grants, and tax-increment financing that must come into play to help pay for streetscaping and green space; 3) A better job by the city in making parking more customer friendly, even with additional parking planned and under construction; 4) Security and the perception of security; 5) A new signage system for the downtown area, called the Wayfinder Program, which has already been approved and paid for.

The City Center Partnership and the city are looking forward to embarking on this dynamic retail initiative. Mayor Coble's remarks follow a recent trip to Austin, Texas to study their retail initiative with a delegation that included Jim Apple, Chairman of City Center Partnership; Matt Kennell, President and CEO; Frank Lourie, a longstanding merchant and board member; Jim Gambrell, Director of City of Columbia's Office of Economic Development; and Councilman E.W. Cromartie.

## Spring 2007 Main Street Marketplace

### Main Street Marketplace Is Here!

It's time to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather and experience downtown Columbia! The Spring Main Street Marketplace is the perfect opportunity to do just that. You can pick up a tasty lunch from a variety of food vendors, listen to live music, enjoy magicians and other creative artists, and browse through the many handmade and unique arts, crafts, jewelry, candles, and specialty gifts. Main Street Marketplace is held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Friday in May and June on Boyd Plaza, in front of the Columbia Museum of Art. Admission is free, and you can contact Nicole Grubbs at 803-779-4005 or [nicole@cartertodd.com](mailto:nicole@cartertodd.com) for more information.



# Family Fun Night Begins at Columbia Museum of Art!

For some quality family fun, make plans to attend Family Fun Night this summer! Held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on June 8, July 13, and August 13, these Friday nights are sure to be a hit with the whole family. On June 8, celebrate French art by exploring the life and work of the Impressionist painter Renoir and his contemporaries. You can grab dinner and a snack at the Kids Café, create art, explore the galleries, and listen to the kid-friendly rock band Lunch Money. Enjoy a performance of *Porcupine Saves the Dance*, while the narrator provides the words and four instrument musicians provide the music that illustrates the story. Children will learn musical concepts such as theme, rhythm, pitch, and tone. On June 13, the family fun continues with an evening filled with various types of storytelling, through visual art, literature and theater. The Kids Café will be open, as well as the galleries, and you can enjoy live storytelling and puppetry performances. The final night of the summer, August 13, will be a night filled with energy and fun as Lunch Money and funny man, Andy Offutt Irwin, perform. All of the events are free with admission or museum membership. ☺



## City Center Partnership Welcomes New Board Members

We are very excited to have John Parks, Executive Director of Innovista; Bill Sills, Director of Facilities and Contract Services at Nelson Mullins; and Terry Brown, CEO of Edens and Avant join our Board!

## SC Department of Insurance Moves to Main

The South Carolina Department of Insurance has relocated to Capitol Center at 1201 Main Street, Suite 1000. The Department, which is an agency of the Governor's Cabinet, was established in 1908 and has regulatory responsibility over 1,450 insurance companies and over 50,000 agents, brokers, adjusters, appraisers, and bail bondsmen. The mission of the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to protect the insurance consumers, the public interest, and the insurance marketplace by ensuring the solvency of insurers; by enforcing and implementing the insurance laws of this State; and by regulating the insurance industry in an efficient, courteous, responsive, fair, and equitable manner. We're excited to welcome our new neighbors! ☺



**CITY CENTER  
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*City Center Partnership -  
Managing the Downtown Business Improvement District -  
Enhancing Property Value & The Quality Of Life For All*

## Upcoming Downtown Events

Check out the events calendar in our “Happenings” section  
on our web site at <http://www.citycentercolumbia.sc>.

From arts to entertainment to shopping to outdoor movies,  
you’re sure to find something that interests you!

## Welcome to Downtown Columbia

**It’s All In The Name**  
919-A Sumter Street

**Salon Solé**  
1332 Main Street

**Caribbean Sea Coffee Shop**  
1200 Main Street, Suite 102  
(facing Gervais)

**SC Department of Insurance**  
1201 Main Street

**Smith Barney**  
1320 Main Street

**Total Carolina Care**  
1441 Main Street

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