



NXNE CELEBRATED 15 YEARS

**WITH MORE MUSIC, MORE VENUES, MORE
FILMS,**

...AND MORE FANS THAN EVER BEFORE

"I'm married to rock 'n' roll and I'm never getting a divorce." So said **Japanther** drummer Ian Vanek in what became the mantra for the tens of thousands of music fans that hit the streets and clubs of Toronto this past weekend for 5 days of explosive music during the 15th edition of the **North by Northeast Music & Film Festival and Conference**.

With an unprecedented lineup of musicians representing a full cross-section of creativity, NXNE drew rave reviews from industry, indie aficionados and casual music fans alike..

Overall, more than 200,000 local and international fans took in more than 625 acts at over 725 shows during the 5-day festival from June 17 – 21, making this the biggest and most successful festival in NXNE's 15-year history. NXNE truly took over Toronto, spreading far beyond the core festival clubs to present shows around town from Pearson Airport to Union Station and key points between.

The NXNE Film Festival grew exponentially this year, with attendance up 35% at over 40 screenings, including top films like ***Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison***, ***James Blunt: Until You're Told To Stop***, and ***The Posters Came From The Walls - Depeche Mode***.

The NXNE Conference rolled out two successful enhancements – the Rivoli Sessions (networking forums held at – yes – a real Queen St West bar), and **NXPO**, the very popular music-lifestyle trade show at the **Hyatt Regency Toronto**. NXPO was anchored by the Day Stage, where fans were treated to up-close live sets from top festival bands including **Papagroove**, **Experimental Dental School**, and **the So So Glos**.

This year's unplanned magic included a surprise guest appearance by **Feist** with **Broken Social Scene**; **D-Sisive** leading a sing-a-long to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Theme Song; legendary Tacoma band **The Sonics** blasting it at Yonge-Dundas Square (YDS); fans rushing the stage for the **Black Lips** at YDS, then the Black Lips joining in on **King Khan**'s set, and then King Khan and **Fab**

Five Freddy on-stage with the Wu-Tang Clan's **GZA**; Brooklyn hip-hop punkers **Ninjasonik** leading off a late-night dance party with an impromptu cover of The Smiths' *Big Mouth Strikes Again*; **Spinnerette** sneaking into the Bovine Sex Club for a secret late-night Saturday show; and **Bruce McDonald** joining **Cancer Bats** to host the Film Festival Gala on Friday evening.

Calgary's **Woodpigeon** took the **CBC Galaxie Rising Star Award**, scoring a cash prize of \$2,000 and national airplay on Galaxie. The band played a solid set of folk-pop at the CBC Sirius showcase and were recently long-listed for the Polaris Music Prize. Sirius Satellite Radio broadcast live from Yonge-Dundas Square on Friday night with **In-Flight Safety**, **The Cliks** and **Wintersleep**, taking NXNE to music fans around the world. And the **AMP Energy \$100,000 Rock Off** saw York University's virtual band **GSpot Boyz** beating out the competition to take home the \$100,000 cash prize following their performance at Yonge-Dundas Square on Saturday night.

NXNE staffers and volunteers—numbering over 700 this year, another festival record—are re-living memories, debriefing, and taking empty bottles back to the store. And catching up on sleep...**NXNE 2010** is already booked for **June 16-20, 2010**, and artist submissions will be open from October through January. Meanwhile, visit www.nxne.com for videos and photos of the best festival yet!

15 Years, 500 Bands, 50 Stages, 30 Films, 25 Panels, 5 Days. The **North by Northeast Music & Film Festival and Conference (NXNE)** runs June 17-June 21, 2009 in Toronto. The Music Festival is recognized worldwide as the place for fans to see breakout performances at intimate venues and for musicians to get vital international exposure. Alumni include **Feist, The Dears, New York Dolls, Ron Sexsmith, K'naan, Jason Collett, Television, Sheek Louch, and The Soundtrack of Our Lives.** The Film Festival features the most compelling music-related films, shorts and documentaries from around the world, and the Conference puts music insiders and veterans alongside the next generation of innovators defining the industry for the digital age. Past Conference speakers include **Stewart Copeland, Rob Halford, Don Letts, Johnny Rotten** and **Thomas Dolby.** Fans can attend the festival with **5-day** or **1-day wristbands, Priority Passes** or **VIP Super Passes**; prices range from \$25 - \$250. Visit www.nxne.com to buy passes & wristbands and for more festival info. Be sure to check out **NXNE** on Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube, and follow **NXNE** on Twitter.

Media Contact: **FLIP PUBLICITY** 416.533.7710 www.flip-publicity.com

Damien Nelson X221, damien@flip-publicity.com,

