

Beijing Premiere for Emmy Nominated Director Becky Smith's Romantic Comedy "16 to Life"

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Emmy nominated director Becky Smith's indie romantic comedy "16 to Life", which recently garnered two awards and five nominations at Method Fest will have its Asian Premiere in Beijing on May 22nd at the Beijing Underground Film Festival.

"16 to Life", focuses on an American teenage girl whose angst about sexual inexperience plays out in unlikely fantasies of the Cultural Revolution in China. The film stars Hallee Hirsh (Rachel Green on ER), Shiloh Fernandez ("United States of Tara", "Skateland") and Theresa Russell ("The Black Widow", "Spider Man 3"),

Actors Hallee Hirsh ("ER", "Flight 29 Down"), Emily Foxler ("Ghosts of Girlfriends Past") and Nicholas Downs ("Anderson's Cross") will travel with Smith to Beijing. The film will be screened with Mandarin subtitles.

"Since we have many recreated scenes of the Chinese Cultural Revolution in the film, as an American girl imagines it," says writer/director Becky Smith, "we are particularly thrilled to have the opportunity to screen the film in China

"16 to Life" will have three major screenings as part of the International Beijing Underground Film Festival; the Central Academy of Drama on May 22nd, the Communications University of China on May 25th and the Beijing Film Academy on May 27th.

"16 to Life" is a Capra-esque, romantic comedy of small town misfits. Kate, a rural American teen, is obsessed with books on eclectic subjects, currently the Cultural Revolution in China. Kate is turning 16 and has never been kissed. Kate's angst about sexual inexperience and guilt will drive a comic quest for love and understanding on a birthday to end all birthdays. Before the clock strikes midnight, Kate and her best friend Darby will discover more about love than most 16 year-olds can imagine. And Kate will learn what a 16-year old American girl has in common with a 16-year-old Chinese girl half a world, and a cultural revolution away.

Trailer and website: <http://www.16tolifethemovie.org>

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About Becky Smith and Waterdog Films - Waterdog Films is the production moniker of Emmy nominated writer/director Becky Smith. Smith was nominated in 2004 for an Emmy in directing (Queer Eye for the Straight Guy), the same year the show won an Emmy, and has directed numerous series and pilots for networks including MTV, MTV2, NBC, Fox, Disney Channel, PBS, Fuse and ABC Family. Her documentary on Title IX, "In the Game," received numerous awards, including Best Television Documentary of the Year from Women in Radio and Television. Smith is a Professor in the UCLA School of Theatre, Film & Digital Media. She received her Masters degree in film from Stanford University.