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90-SECOND NEWBERY FILM FESTIVAL RETURNING TO PORTLAND **Festival for kid-made films enters its sixth year**

PORTLAND, OR — The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival will screen at Portland's Hollywood Theatre from 4:30-6 pm on Sunday, February 12, 2017.

The 90-Second Newbery Film Festival is an annual celebration of kids' creativity in which young filmmakers create short movies telling the entire stories of Newbery Medal and Newbery Honor books in roughly 90 seconds. The deadline for entries is **January 7, 2017**.

The film festival, now in its sixth year, was founded by children's author **James Kennedy** (*The Order of Odd-Fish*) and screens every year to packed houses at libraries and theaters in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Minneapolis, San Antonio, and other cities. This year Kennedy will co-host the Portland screening with local children's author **Dale Basye** (*Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go*) and **Keir Graff** (*The Matchstick Castle*).

Kennedy has partnered with Portland Community Media to bring the film festival to Portland. "We're proud to be co-hosting this all-youth film festival again," said Media Education Manager Elisa Barrios. "We recently opened up all of our classes for adults to ages 16 plus, and hope this enables more Portland youth to contribute entries."

Ever since 1922, the American Library Association's **Newbery Medal** has been recognized as the most prestigious award in children's literature. But according to Kennedy, "it turns out that any book, no matter how worthy and somber, becomes hilarious when it's compressed to only 90 seconds."

The goal, says Kennedy, is not for kids to create mere book trailers or video book reports. The challenge is for them to compress the *entire plot* of the book in under two minutes, often with a transformative twist. Past entries include Beverly Cleary's *Ramona and Her Father* done as a James Bond movie and E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web* reimagined as a horror movie. Kids use many other styles as well, including **claymation, puppet shows, musicals, and Minecraft**. Filmmakers may adapt any Newbery Medal- or Honor-winning book. Participants should be under 21, but help from enthusiastic adults is allowed.

Kennedy adds, "For years I've received many outstanding 90-Second Newberys from Portland, especially from the folks at PCMTV. I'm thrilled to bring the film festival to the Hollywood Theatre, where we'll highlight the best entries from both Portland and across the country. I can't wait to see what Portland's young filmmakers make this year!"

More details may be found at **www.90secondnewbery.com**. The website features many of the videos received throughout the last five years, as well as further resources for teachers and filmmakers. To receive more information, or to schedule an interview with James Kennedy, call James Kennedy at 773-351-7452 or email him at kennedyjames@gmail.com.