

# The Economics of Happiness

By Tom Sims, Executive Director, Cape May Film Society

[www.capemayfilm.org](http://www.capemayfilm.org)

This is the weekend to celebrate your mother—why not celebrate mother earth while you're at it. The Economics of Happiness is a film that takes you around the world in all its color to give a report card on how poorly the planet is combating the effects of globalization—that is, except in Cape May. This is truly a time where the county can be proud about some of the ways in which we conserve and protect the environment.

Like most environmental films, The Economics of Happiness pulls no punches when pointing out the negative effects of moving away from a localized economy. The phrase used to be: think globally, act locally. Now the phrase might well be: think locally, act locally--care globally. This film is hard-hitting and inspiring, and it demonstrates that millions of people across the world are engaged in building a better world – that small scale initiatives are happening on a large scale. The film shows that countless initiatives are united around a common cause: rebuilding more democratic, human scale, ecological and local economies. And while so many parts of the world may find the message of the film judges them harshly, such is not the case in Cape May.

The second half of the film comes alive with hope and promise as the film speaks of local farm markets, staying in tune with local business, embarking on slow food movements. Sound familiar? This film is a must-see for Cape May, where our emphasis on environmental friendliness shows that when it comes to making a better planet, we're getting a lot right!

And talk about acting locally, this film has been seen all around the planet to critical acclaim—yet strangely enough has never been seen in New Jersey. The Cape May Film Society is about to change that. On Saturday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., the Film Society will host The Economics of Happiness for the first time in the “green” garden state. This is all part of our “Green Film” Series (last year, we screened the film No Impact Man) where the Film Society brings important ground-breaking environmental films to New Jersey for the first time. Join us as we celebrate our mother—earth that is. No reservations needed.

And don't forget to sign your child or grandchild up for our Summer Film Camp (June 27-July 1). Joe Stinson and Stefan Prosky will join Gail Schmidtchen to host the week-long camp. We also want to welcome Cape May Film Society's new President, Dottie Knapp. Look for Dottie to host some great film retrospectives this upcoming Spring and Summer! Visit [www.capemayfilm.org](http://www.capemayfilm.org) for updates or send your email address to [capemayfilm@hotmail.com](mailto:capemayfilm@hotmail.com).