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Everybody Loves a WIENER

Monday September 17 12:27 PM ET

For his first film, Canadian-born stand-up comic and children's TV writer Shane MacDougall has turned his attention to the world of Daschund devotees.

By FilmStew Staff, FilmStew.com

It all started when San Diego-based filmmaker Shane MacDougall was told about the Wiener National Championships, an event taking place a mere mile from his home. When he went to check it out, he discovered a real-life version of *Best in Show*, a celebration of the surprising racing skills of miniature Daschund dogs.

MacDougall was so captivated by what he saw that it led he and his wife, over a span of three years, to follow along on the west coast Daschund circuit and film the exploits of six chosen canines in California, Arizona, Texas, Ohio, New York, Michigan and Illinois. The resulting film, *Wiener Takes All: A Dogumentary*, has its world premiere tomorrow in Halifax at the Atlantic Film Festival.

"I never realized dogs had such a competitive spirit," MacDougall tells Halifax's *Chronicle Herald*. "They really want to win, you can see it in their eyes. Heidi Roo shakes as she watches the other dogs race. Vinnie Babarino tries to stare down the other dogs. I'd adopt any of them. They're lovable, affable, loyal dogs . . . just awesome."

Following tomorrow's Canadian screening, *Wiener Takes All* will wind its way to the San Francisco Documentary Festival (September 28th – October 10th) for its U.S. premiere. Meanwhile, for a further taste of the wiener dog community, you can visit the cheekily titled blog ShowUsYourWiener.com.

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