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PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

2017 ROVING EYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 12TH ANNIVERSARY AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Programming Features More Than 70 Films From Across The World, Premiere Work, Professional Panels, Visiting Actors and Filmmakers And Celebrates Arts Programming On The Roger Williams University Bristol Campus

WHAT: The 12th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival: Connecting Through Storytelling

WHEN: April 17 – 23rd, 2017

WHERE: Roger Williams University, 1 Ferry Road, Bristol RI

WHO: Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) and Roger Williams University and Students in the Senior-level Curation & Film Festival Production Class

WHY: To celebrate the next generation of independent cinema from across the globe

HOW MUCH: Free for film-related events; Modest admission cost for theater and music event

(BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND) - The 12th Annual Roving Eye International Film Festival created by the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) in partnership with Roger Williams University kicks off April 17th and runs through the 23rd. This year's programming features over 70 films from across the world including Academy Award nominees and winners, numerous World and US Premieres; panel discussions/symposia; visiting filmmakers and student film showcases. The event will conclude with the Spring 2017 Soforenko Foundation Film/Speaker Series On The Jewish Experience.

The Festival theme this year is "**Connecting Through Storytelling.**"

The **Roving Eye International Film Festival** promises to be a portal for discovery for film, arts and culture lovers across the region at this year's celebration. Complementing this year's cinematic offerings, the campus will be alive with a bounty of special presentations from a highly anticipated screening of the new documentary by **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director of the RI Film & Television Office, "Pell" that chronicles the creation of the Pell Educational Grants; a Conversation with actor, **Robert Capron** ("Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series and CBS's "Elementary"); "**The Creative Process In 90 Minutes**" featuring **Eric Latek**, award-winning writer/director/cinematographer; **Armen Garo**, actor ("Gotham," "The Departed," "The Sopranos," "The Brotherhood," "Vinyl," "American Hustle") and **Michael Grando**, actor ("The Tonight Show"); a presentation of the documentary "**Check It**" and Q&A with director, **Dana Flor**; screening of the Alfred Hitchcock classic "**Vertigo**" as part of the University's Great Film Series; The President's Distinguished Speakers Series featuring

Nicholas Kristof, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times Columnist; Earth Day Celebration with “**Earth Fest 2017**” on the D’Angelo Common (the RWU Quadrangle); the Theater Department’s production of “**SPAMALOT,**” Book and Lyrics by Eric Idle; Music by John Du Prez and Eric Idle, Directed by Jeffrey B. Martin, with musical direction by Nancy Rosenberg; and guest panelists, educators and industry leaders such as **Mauro Colangelo**, Film Composer; **Alfred Thomas Catalfo**, screenwriter, director and attorney, **Duncan Putney**, actor and award winning screenwriter; **Alice Cross**, writer/lecturer; **Rev. Nancy Soukup**, RWU Multifaith Chaplain; and **Shawn Quirk**, RIIFF Program Director

The Festival’s annual **Soforenko Foundation Film/Speaker Series On The Jewish Experience** will showcase documentaries and short films never before shown in the U.S. This year’s guest speaker is **Andrew Lund**, director/producer/educator.

Students at the University, with the guidance of Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival, create the Roving Eye International Film Festival through the Film Minor senior-level course, *Curation and Film Festival Production*. Flickers’ Executive Director and RWU Professor, **George T. Marshall** teaches the class. This year, 16 students spent the first part of the spring semester reviewing more than 500 films provided by Flickers and from there went on to create the entire Roving Eye Festival. The students developed active marketing and PR strategies, including the planning for events plus staffing throughout the week. **Roberta E. Adams, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, is the Festival Chair, linking faculty adjudicators with students, RIIFF and the RWU administration in a unique collaboration.

Students in the Curation and Film Production Class include: **Hadi Alyami, Alison Cellana, Reagan Cronin, Gabriela Dinobile, Gabrielle Dougherty, Taylor Flaherty, Jacob Johnson, Alissa Livingston, Tyler McCoy, Zachary Mobrize, Brett Pollina, Kelsey Rogers, Bradley Ross, Benjamin Scheff, Elliot Sirchio** and **Nicholas Stanglewicz**.

The **2017 Roving Eye International Film Festival** is sponsored by *The RI Film & the Television Office; Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival; WSBE Rhode Island PBS; Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Edge Media Network, the Edwin S. Soforenko Foundation; Roger Williams University Office of the Provost; the RWU Department of Communication and Graphic Design, the RWU Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences, Dean Robert Cole; Roberta Adams, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; the RWU Film Production Collaborative, the RWU Screenwriter’s Guild, RWU Hillel, and the Spiritual Life Office.*

To see a listing of this year’s programming and to learn more about the Roving Eye Festival, go to: <http://www.film-festival.org/RovingEye.php>

ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY:

Roger Williams University, located on the coast of Bristol, R.I., is a forward-thinking private university with 45 undergraduate majors spanning the liberal arts and the professions, where students become community-minded citizens through project-based, experiential learning. With small classes, direct access to faculty and boundless opportunity for real-world projects, RWU students develop the ability to think critically while simultaneously building the practical skills that today’s employers demand. In the two years since launching its signature Affordable Excellence initiative, the University has established itself as a leader in American higher education by confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families – increasing costs that limit access to college, rising debt and the job readiness of graduates. In addition to its 4,000 undergraduates, RWU is home to more than a dozen graduate programs, a thriving School of Continuing Studies based in Providence as well as Rhode Island’s only law school. For more information, go to: www.rwu.edu.

ABOUT FLICKERS’ RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of

domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Documentary and Animation Short Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running Aug. 8-13, 2017 at the **Providence Performing Arts Center** (PPAC) and **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call 401.861.4445.

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