



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2008 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

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TOP RIIFF DOCS SUBMITTED TO PRESTIGIOUS
CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL
Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival is the largest in China

PROVIDENCE, RI -- For the second year in a row, a select group of top documentaries from the **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** will be submitted to the **Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival (GZ DOC)** in Guangzhou, China as part of a special exchange program between the two festivals.

Through RIIFF's partnership with GZ DOC – China's largest documentary festival – the top RIIFF documentaries have an opportunity to screen at the Chinese film festival and vice versa. Additionally, RIIFF docs have been chosen by GZDOC to participate in the **Sapphire Moving Image Salon** traveling film series and special events for trade, cultural, and educational organizations.

"This is a unique opportunity for RIIFF filmmakers to reach Chinese audiences," commented Adam Short, RIIFF's Producing Director. "Not only do our filmmakers gain through this important partnership, but local audiences have a chance to see great documentary films currently coming out of China."

According to GZ DOC Festival Director He Shaoguang, "Our festivals have recommended three documentaries to each other. While it may not sound like many films, it is the start of a productive collaboration. Chinese documentary filmmakers are very glad to know their films are being screened in the Roving Eye Documentary Film Festival. I look forward to visiting the festival with our filmmakers and to our continued cooperation in the upcoming year."

Last year, the RIIFF Audience Choice Award winning documentary "From The 50 Yard Line" was accepted into GZ DOC. The film not only played to large audiences at the festival, but it was also included in a traveling screening series that toured major Chinese cities.

This year's nominated titles include:

- **"Commit to the Line"** Rachelle Dermer, director. First Prize winner at RIIFF's Providence Film Festival.
- **"Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women"** Nancy Porter, director. Grand Prize winner at RIIFF's Providence Film Festival.
- **"Small Voices: The Stories of Cambodia's Children"** Heather Connell, director. Second Place winner for Best Feature Documentary.

The **Flickers Arts Collaborative**, an organization with 25 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public, produces the **Rhode Island International Film Festival**.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIIFF is one of only 62 film festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIIFF is New England's largest film festival. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. For more information, write RIIFF, P.O. Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445. E-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org

ABOUT THE GUANGZHOU DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

The **Guangzhou International Documentary Festival (GZ DOC)** started in 2003 and, after five editions, has secured its status as the top documentary film festival in China, as well as an important part of the international documentary market in Asia. The festival is held annually in December in Guangzhou and includes a Documentary Market, public screenings, a thematic competition, and documentary-making seminars. All sections are open for application to participants internationally and domestically. For more information, please visit us on the web at <www.gzdoc.com>.

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