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**2008 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE**

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**RIIFF FILMS NOMINATED FOR
ACADEMY AWARDS**

TWO FESTIVAL FAVORITES GARNER ACADEMY'S ATTENTION

PROVIDENCE, RI (January 23, 2008) – The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** is pleased to announce that two of its top films from the 2007 festival have been nominated for an Oscar. Each year, as an Academy Award qualifying festival, RIIFF recommends films from its festival to be considered by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences** for a nomination in the Short Film category.

“Tanghi Argentini” by Guido Thys has been nominated in the Best Live Action Short Film category and “Salim Baba” by Tim Sternberg has been nominated in the Best Documentary Short Subject category. “Tanghi” won the 2007 RIIFF’s Short Film prize and was recommended to the Academy for consideration. “Salim” had its U.S. Premiere at the festival and was well received by RIIFF audiences. The 80th Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements will be presented on Sunday, February 24, 2008, at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center.

“Our fingers are crossed and we wish the best of luck to both films. They are both strong contenders for an Oscar statue,” commented RIIFF’s Executive Director George T. Marshall. “RIIFF’s mission is to discover and promote filmmaking talent – being able to provide filmmakers with a chance at winning an Oscar is an exciting honor.”

Out of more than 6,000 film festivals worldwide, RIIFF is one of a handful that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards. It is the only film festival in New England with an Academy qualifying status. To date, thirteen films that have had their premiere with RIIFF have been nominated, with three films having gone on to win an Oscar.

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 a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. “Oscars”). RIIFF incorporates gala celebrations, premiere screenings, VIP guests, industry seminars, educational programs, and award ceremonies into a week-long

extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 300 films. 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 about the film festival and its upcoming events, please visit <www.RIFilmFest.org> or call (401) 861-4445.

For a complete list of the 2007 Oscar nominees, please visit <<http://www.oscars.org/80academyawards/nominees/index.html>>.

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