



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

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
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**SPECIAL VETERANS DAY FILM SCREENING
AND DISCUSSION**

**RIIFF Presents "The Things They Carry:
American Vets Confront the Effects of War"**

PROVIDENCE, RI -- **The Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF), Bryant University's College of Arts and Sciences, and ShrinkWrap Productions** will be hosting a special *free screening* and panel discussion on **November 8th** at Bryant University's Janikie Auditorium in honor of Veterans Day. The programming starts at 2:00 p.m.

The acclaimed feature-length documentary "**Leave No Soldier,**" will be the centerpiece presentation. The film had its world premiere this summer at the Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival in August. Noted New York filmmaker, Donna Bassin co-wrote, directed and produced the film. The documentary tracks two generations of American War Veterans: those involved in the Vietnam War and those who have more recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

A panel discussion will follow the film screening, addressing topics related to veteran's issues. The focus of the discussion will be on the treatment and support available to returning soldiers as they reintegrate themselves into civilian life. The panel will include filmmaker and clinical psychologist, Donna Bassin; Jan Berry – co-founder of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, as well as local military and VA representatives.

ABOUT THE FILM:

"Leave No Soldier," tells the story of two impassioned journeys by two communities of American war veterans who have carried a military oath from the battlefield to the home front. The two groups are divided by their politics, but united in their devotion to dead comrades and their compassionate commitment to "leave no fallen soldier behind."

2006. The third year of the Iraq war. Rolling Thunder and Veterans for Peace each undertake a highly emotional journey of remembrance, protest and reparation. In very different ways, each group has set out to redirect their grief and rage into a redemptive advocacy for soldiers at war overseas, and for wounded warriors at home. Occupying opposite sides of the political spectrum, both groups feel betrayed by their government, and vow that never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.

Rolling Thunder organizes a motorcycle procession through the streets of Washington D.C. to the Vietnam Veteran Memorial. 500,000 Harley-Davidsons echo the sounds of

helicopters and B-52 bombers in a war-torn sky. While supporting the U.S. commitment to the war, Rolling Thunder makes a powerful statement of protest against the government's inattention to our returning warriors.

A few months later, Veterans for Peace and the newly formed Iraq Veterans Against the War march 125 miles along the devastated Gulf Coast, supporting the politics of social transformation, and repairing houses in solidarity with survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Like these survivors, Veterans for Peace feel abandoned by a government indifferent to their plight. Unlike Rolling Thunder, Veterans for Peace is committed to a change in the U.S. policy on Iraq.

Set against the action of these two interwoven journeys, we follow two generations of American war veterans-- men and women, soldiers and nurses, as they make their passage from grief and rage to outspoken activism.

THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE OF IT:

Who: The **Rhode Island International Film Festival**, **Bryant University's College of Arts and Sciences**, and **ShrinkWrap Productions**

What: A Special Veteran's Day screening of the acclaimed documentary "Leave No Soldier," followed by a panel discussion.

Where: Bryant University's Janikies Auditorium, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 029017, (401) 232-6000.

When: November 8, 2008, 2-6 p.m.

Cost: *Free and Open to the Public*

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 weeklong extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIIFF 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. Next year's Festival takes place August 4-9, 2009.

For more information, write RIIFF, PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445, e-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org.

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