



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**2009 RHODE ISLAND**  
**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**RIIFF'S ANNUAL "FIRST LOOK" GLBT**  
**PREMIERE SCREENING**  
*Preview Screening of New GLBT Feature Film*  
*"Make the Yuletide Gay" Highlights a Festive Evening*

**PROVIDENCE, RI** (June 2, 2009) – For the past six years as part of its community outreach efforts and recognition of **Gay Pride Month**, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** has presented a preview in June of programming it will offer during the main Festival in August. RIIFF annually produces the **Providence GLBT Film Festival**, a popular sidebar which screens films that reflect the GLBT experience. This year, programming will include an expanded focus on a growing social and political issue: marriage equality.

To kick off this year's **GLBT Festival**, RIIFF will present a special preview screening of Rob Williams' latest comedy, **"Make the Yuletide Gay."** The screening will take place on Saturday, June 13th at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Bell Street Chapel, 5 Bell Street, Providence. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online at <<http://www.film-festival.org/Prov.GLBT.FestPREV09.php>>.

This screening is sponsored by TLA Releasing and presented in collaboration with the Bell Street Chapel.

According to George T. Marshall, RIIFF's Executive Director, "Rhode Island is the lone hold out in New England recognizing the intrinsic civil rights of a group of tax-paying Americans who have been treated with disdain and a second-class citizens. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont and Iowa already allow gay marriage and the logic supporting these unions boil down to providing the same rights, responsibilities - and respect--under the law any American citizens should expect and demand.

"Our intent is to provide a platform that educates and challenges audiences with this year's GLBT side-bar Festival, and hopefully reframe the debate in terms of legal and civil rights. With 60% of Rhode Islanders in favor of gay marriage according to recent polls, there is obviously a disconnect with the political leadership.

"To quote from the Iowa Supreme Court, 'denying gays the right to marry is discriminatory.'" added Marshall. "In a state that hails Roger Williams as its founder, Rhode Island needs to do better and live up to its long held principles. The train has left the station on this issue and Rhode Island is on the wrong side of history."

**ABOUT THE FILM:**

**"Make the Yuletide Gay,"** is a hilarious comedy from the director of past RIFF favorites, "Long Term Relationship," "Back Soon" and "3 Day Weekend."

Olaf "Gunn" Gunnunderson (Keith Jordan), an out-and-proud gay college student, crawls back into the closet to survive the holidays with his parents (hilarious performances by Derek Long & Kelly Keaton). He keeps his cool as his quirky Midwestern-hearted parents try to set him up with his high school sweetheart, Abby (Hallee Hirsch). But when his boyfriend, Nathan (Adamo Ruggiero), shows up at their doorstep unannounced, Gunn must put on a charade to keep the relationship a secret. With pressure mounting from all sides, will Gunn come out before the truth does? With Ian Buchanan, Gates McFadden and Alison Arngim.

"For this, and all subsequent GLBT screenings at the Bell Street Chapel," said Marshall, "we will be offering a unique opportunity.

"Anyone who attends the screening, whether gay or straight, who is married, in a civil union, domestic partnership or engaged will have a dollar of their ticket donated directly to **Marriage Equality, RI**. Simply show us your ring!"

**THE WHO, WHAT AND WHERE OF IT:**

The screening of RIFF's **"First Look' GLBT Preview: Make the Yuletide Gay"** will take place at the historic Bell Street Chapel which is located at 5 Bell Street in Providence, RI, 401.273.5678, [www.bellstreetchapel.org](http://www.bellstreetchapel.org)

**Date:** Saturday, June 13th, 2009.

**Time:** The film will screen at 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10 general admission

All proceeds generated by the screening will be used for the planning and production of RIFF's 13th Annual Season. RIFF is a 501-C(3) non-profit organization. *All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is generously supported by WJAR TV 10, The City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, Clear Channel Communications, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Sony, Amtrak, HB Communications, The Providence Phoenix, the University of Rhode Island and individual contributions. The 13th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival will take place August 4-9, 2009 in the state's beautiful capital city, Providence and throughout Rhode Island.

**ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:**

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIFF 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," RIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 200 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. This year's Festival takes place August 4-9, 2009.

For more information, write **RIFF**, PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445, e-mail: [info@film-festival.org](mailto:info@film-festival.org), website: [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org).

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