



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2009 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

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RIIFF WINS NEW ENGLAND EMMY FOR ITS 2008 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS / FESTIVAL PROMOTIONS

PROVIDENCE, RI (May 31, 2009) The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) won a **New England Emmy Award** for its promotional campaign that showcased the Oscar-qualifying event. The trophy was presented in the packed ballroom of the Boston Marriott Copley Place for the 32nd Annual Boston/New England Emmy Awards.

The Board of Governors of the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences notified RIIFF in April about the nomination for the Community/Public Service (PSAs) Campaign. The nominated categories were judged by industry peers from the Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Mid-Atlantic and Mid-America Chapters of the National Academy.

The campaign featured two spots. Entitled "**Canisters**," the PSAs were written by Duncan Putney of Providence; produced by Demetria Carr of Barrington; directed by William Smyth of Providence; and featured original music composition by Miraj Berry. George T. Marshall of Newport was the Executive Producer. The spots featured the talents of Richard Donnelly and Phyllis Kay of Trinity Repertory Company and cameos by Peter Manfredo, Jr., Michael Corrente, Monique Barker, Simon Liu, Francesca Simone, Mayor David Cicilline, Dr. Stephen Carr, Ellen Tedeschi-Moran, and Olivia Carr. They aired in July and August 2008 on WJAR TV.

"This campaign would not have existed without the creativity and commitment of our collaborative team: William Smyth, Miraj Berry, Duncan Putney and Demetria Carr" noted George T. Marshall, the Executive Director of RIIFF who accepted the award. "These classy, memorable spots have served to brand the Festival and created quite a buzz when they were released last year. They tell a story about the power and influence of the movies on each individual in our society."

Marshall noted that he and Smyth have worked together since 1986 when Smyth was a film studies major at Rhode Island College and he was an Assistant Professor of Communications.

"Bill is one of those gifted individuals who is a testament to the creative talent we have in our state. He has an amazing visual sensibility and style which I have not seen equaled," Marshall added.

This marks the fourth time Public Service Announcements produced by RIIFF been nominated for Emmy Awards and the third win. All spots were directed by William Smyth.

Also winning an Emmy that evening was Rhode Island director/videographer, Jessica Jennings of VisionWink Productions.

Jessica is an Emmy Award winning producer, director, cinematographer and editor based in Rhode Island. Her work in documentary, commercial and feature films has been broadcast and shown at film festivals around the country and internationally. With over ten years experience in the major motion picture business. She received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and a BA from the University of Chicago. Current work includes producing and shooting **Home Across Lands**, a documentary on Eritrean refugees and their journey of resettlement in the United States, and **Big World, Small World**, a film shot in Ghana, West Africa, about a community-based school that highlights the work of international social entrepreneurs.

Her Emmy-winning film, "**Boy in the World**," will have its Festival East Coast Premiere at this summer's Rhode Island International Film Festival. The Festival will run August 4-9th.

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 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.

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