



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

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13th ANNUAL RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: 235
FILMS. 57 COUNTRIES. 7 RUNNING DAYS. 1 OPENING NIGHT.
RIIFF 2009 Presents an Extraordinary Night of International
Short Films and Festivities and Honors Composer Klaus Badelt

(PROVIDENCE, RI • July 22, 2009) --- A brilliant, thought-provoking and unforgettable selection of short films from around the world await audiences at the August 4th **Opening Ceremony** of the **13th Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival**. The night's exhilarating line-up will showcase some of the finest examples of independent and international short films. Chosen from over 3,300 submissions, this stimulating selection will be shown in the elegant **Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)**, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. (<http://www.film-festival.org/OpeningNight09.php>)

RIIFF TO HONOR COMPOSER KLAUS BADELT

At the top of the evening, the **Crystal Image Award** will be presented by RIIFF to composer Klaus Badelt. Klaus has composed scores for Hollywood blockbusters such as *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, *The Time Machine*, *Starship Troopers*, *Ned Kelly*, *K-19: The Widowmaker*, *Poseidon*, and many more. He has signed with the Weinstein Company and has composed the music for the closing ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics. He has recently been working in Macau, China putting the finishing touches on the first-of-its-kind film installation in the world: The Bubble™. This is a 360-degree theater that will serve as the front door to the largest casino in China called "The City of Dreams".

RIIFF's Opening Night Program will salute the "**Art of the Short Film**," a signature theme for the Festival. Some of the best short films that the 2009 festival has to offer will be showcased between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. on the grand 60-foot screen in PPAC. All films will be screened in 35mm surround sound.

The films screened will represent an array of genres representing RIIFF's unique status as the lone film festival in New England that is a qualifying event for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences "Oscar". There are more than 7,000 total film festivals worldwide; only 63 have been granted this prestigious distinction. (<http://www.oscars.org/awards/academyawards/rules/shortsfestivals.html>)

"It has been a pretty sensational year for us," said RIIFF Executive Director **George T. Marshall**, "Entries have been up 24% over last year and have been entered from all over the world. The films submitted this year have run the gamut in themes, styles and filmmaking techniques.

"The film work that was entered this year has been amazing. It's been very challenging for our judges to limit their film selections. The quality has been that strong. There is no question that during this year's Festival we will have some very thoughtful new cinematic work that will inspire and encourage audiences to respond."

SOME CINEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS:

Making its **World premiere** is the Canadian short **Léger Problème (Little inconvenience)** directed by H  l  ne Florent. Unique, with an unexpected twist, the film follows the life of an ordinary man which seems to be very different on a day that seemed like every other day.

“A Son’s War “Directed by Steven Edell, shot in the Czech Republic is set in Prague, circa.1939. It is the true story of Jan Wiener, a young Czech Jew, and his mother, Frantiska, struggling to survive at the outset of Nazi occupation during World War II. As the German army tightens its hold on the city and danger grows ever nearer, an S.S. Officer ultimately forces Jan to choose between his freedom and his mother’s honor.

From, Spain comes director V  ctor B  rcena’s **“Las manos de Abel.”** The story follows Abel, a little child whose entire lifetime has been surrounded by nature, close to a small village, arrives to the big city after his father’s death and discovers what it means to grow up quickly.

“A Bike Ride” directed by: Bernard Attal from the United States is a heartfelt tale of a young girl whose parents recently divorced. The story follows how she reconciles the uncertainties of life during daily bicycle rides with her father.

The Gala Opening Film Screenings will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the **Providence Performing Arts Center’s** main theatre. Admission to this event is \$20 per person. The opening night will also serve as a partial fund-raiser for the **Patricia Neal Scholarship Fund.**

PRE-SCREENING PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION:

Prior to the film screenings, the night will begin in the Marquee Room of the Providence Performing Arts Center with the **OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION** from 5:00 -6:45 p.m. at the **Marquee Room** of the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Composer Klaus Badelt, will be on hand to meet guests. As a twice ASCAP Award winner, and a World Sound Track Award winner, his is a success story in the realm of music and film. Delicious catering by Ellen Loconto of **Just Ellen’s Catering & Event Planning** will also be provided. Musical accompaniment by **Lois Vaughan Jazz Duo** will add to the creative flow of the night. Presidential tickets are available to the public for \$100 dollars per person on a limited basis and will provide access to all opening night festivities.

According to **Demetria Carr**, RIFF’s Managing Director, who created the evening’s events, “This evening is the ‘must attend’ event of the festival because it is reserved specifically for filmmakers, sponsors, press, visiting celebrities, and special guests. It provides a wonderful opportunity for audiences to meet the future stars of the film industry along with noted actors and directors.”

An evening of great film will topped off with a taste of Rhode Island. The Post Premiere Party will be held in the lobby area and mezzanine of PPAC. **This event is \$40 per person** and will begin immediately following the screening and continue until 11 PM.

Guests will enjoy a night of food and festivities, all with an international flavor as RIFF pays tribute to its visiting filmmakers from around the world. In addition to the flavorful food, music will be provided by the **Bobby Kyle Band**, a jazz ensemble making it’s Rhode Island debut, promises to be one of the best. Fabulous restaurants - including: *Aspire, Dave’s Marketplace Catering, Decadent Catering, GaGa Sherbetta, Local Hero Catering, Mill’s Tavern, Pizza Pie-er, Venda Ravioli* and *Wholefoods*. - will be featured and enjoyed throughout the evening. Beverage sponsors include *UFO Hefeweizen Beer* by *Harpoon Brewery* and *Skyy Vodka* and *Empire Soda*.

A wide range of films will be screened during the week of the **13th Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival**. Besides the Courthouse Center for the Arts in West Kingston, venues will be scattered throughout the state's prestigious capital city. They include: *The Cable Car Cinema, the Providence Public Library, the Bell Street Chapel, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Brown/RISD Hillel, URI Feinstein Providence, Providence Black Repertory Theatre, and the RISD Museum.*

Recognized as the largest film festival in New England, RIFF prides itself in celebrating the art of independent filmmaking. The 2009 Festival will screen **235 films** that reflect a variety of styles, perspectives and genres: documentaries, features, animation, and shorts. Many of the filmmakers are expected to attend the Festival making for a lively audience experience and an opportunity to interact, ask questions and discuss.

RIFF has received national and international recognition. It was recently listed in the Providence Business News as one of the Top 20 year-round events in Rhode Island. The Boston Globe's NewEnglandtravel.com named RIFF as one of the top five New England film festivals. And, in 2008, it was listed in *Moviemaker Magazine* as one of the "Top 25 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee."

The Festival will not be short on name actors gracing the screen or working behind the camera: *David Arquette, Doris Roberts, Anne Meara, Ernest Borgnine, Jane Lynch, Michael Musto, Richard Gere, Joan Allen, Christopher Lloyd, David Ogden Stiers, Alfred Molina, Jason Alexander, Isabella Rossellini, John Lithgow, Ricky Schroder, Annie Leibovitz, Cybill Shepherd, Piper Laurie, Richard Schiff, Sky Soleil, Steven Soderberg, Darryl Hannah, Mira Sorvino, Seymour Cassel, George Clooney, Kathleen Turner, Samuel L. Jackson, Will Patton, Tiger Woods, Charlie Sifford, Jim Dent, Calvin Peete, Arnold Palmer and Tom Everett Scott,*

RIFF 2009 films have come from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, Egypt, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Namibia, U S A, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Venezuela. **57 countries** will be represented.

This year's film festival will take place at multiple venues statewide, including: *Providence and Kingston. These include the Columbus Theatre Arts Center; Providence Performing Arts Center; the Cable Car Cinema; Showcase Providence Place; Bell Street Chapel; Gallery Z; RISD Museum, Chace Auditorium; Brown/RISD Hillel, URI Feinstein Campus Theatre; Providence Public Library; Providence Biltmore Hotel, and the Courthouse Center for the Arts (Kingston),*

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is supported in part by the *City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, WJAR TV10, The Providence Phoenix, Sony, HB Communications, WBRU, NewEnglandFilm.com, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, URI's College of Arts and Sciences, URI's Feinstein College of Continuing Education, PMA, the URI Film Media Program, Rule Broadcast/Boston Camera, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island College, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Art New England Magazine* and contributions from members and community supporters.

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.

The **Flickers Arts Collaborative**, an organization with 28 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public, produces the **Rhode Island International Film Festival**.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org). Student, group, and senior discounts are also available but only in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445; or write RIFF, 268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto www.RIFilmFest.org.

THE SELECTIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S OPENING NIGHT SCREENING:

"A Bike Ride"

Directed by: Bernard Attal
(2009, 13 min. U S A)

A young girl whose parents recently divorced reconciles the uncertainties of life during daily bicycle rides with her father.

A Son's War

Directed by Steven Edell
(2009, 25 min. Czech Republic, U S A)

Prague, 1939. The true story of Jan Wiener, a young Czech Jew, and his mother, Frantiska, struggling to survive at the outset of Nazi occupation during World War II. As the German army tightens its hold on the city and danger grows ever nearer, an S.S. Officer ultimately forces Jan to choose between his freedom and his mother's honor.

"Worth"

Directed by Kathi Carey
(2008, 7 min. U S A)

When a non-descript violin shows up at an upscale auction it seems wildly out of place. But who decides what something or someone is really worth? The answer may surprise you.

Léger Problème (Little inconvenience)

Directed by Hélène Florent
(2009, 9 min. Canada)

The life of an ordinary man seems to be very different on a day that seemed like every other day.

The Bake Shop Ghost

Directed by Lorette Bayle
(2009, 16 min. U S A)

In a haunted bake shop, a determined young woman struggles to find the perfect recipe to satisfy a hungry spirit. Based on a best-selling and much-loved short story by Jacqueline Ogburn, this film provides enchantment for all ages.

Triple Concerto in D Minor

Directed by Daniel Mitchell
(2008, 8 min, Australia)

Rebecca, an ambitious young girl from Clarinda, had always wanted to play her beloved

triangle with an orchestra. When the National Youth Orchestra are in town holding auditions, Rebecca has the chance to make her everlasting dream true.

Out of the Blue

Directed by Michael Lavelle
(2009, 9 min. Ireland)

It looks like love has passed Georgie by until he discovers a strange television floating in the sea. He takes it home only to discover that there's more to it than meets the eye.

Pigeon: Impossible

Directed by Lucas Martell
(2009, 6 min. U S A)

'Pigeon: Impossible' is the tale of Walter, a rookie secret agent faced with a problem seldom covered in basic training: what to do when a curious pigeon gets trapped inside your multi-million dollar, government-issued nuclear briefcase.

Las manos de Abel

Directed by Víctor Bárcena
(2009, 20 min. Spain)

Abel, a little child whose entire lifetime has been surrounded by nature, close to a small village, arrives to the big city after his father's death and discovers what it means to grow up quickly.

Post-It Love

Directed by Si&Ad .
(2008, 3 min. United Kingdom)

Girl meets boy in quirky office romance. Two like-minded souls, too shy to approach each other, find a new way to show their love for each other.

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