



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

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
Contact: Adam M.K. Short, Producing Director
adams@film-festival.org • 401.861-4445

THREE RIIFF FILMS EARN OSCAR NOMINATIONS
*"This Way Up," "Spielzeugland (Toyland)" and "New Boy" in
running for Academy Awards*

PROVIDENCE, RI (01/22/09) – Three films that had their premieres and were award-winners at the 2008 **Rhode Island International Film Festival** have been nominated for Academy Awards. The nomination announcement was made this morning by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in California.

Nominated for Best Animated Short was **"This Way Up,"** directed by Adam Foulkes and Alan Smith from the United Kingdom. The film had its United States Festival premiere at RIIFF and won the festival's **First Prize for Best Animation.**

Nominated for Best Live Action Short were two films: **"New Boy"** directed by Steph Green, from Ireland. The film was selected for RIIFF's popular Opening Night Gala and went on to win the festival's **First Prize for Best Short.**

Also nominated was **"Spielzeugland (Toyland)"** by director Jochen Alexander Freydank, from Germany. The film was the recipient of RIIFF's **International Discovery Award.**

Additionally, the winner of RIIFF's 2008 **George M. Cohan Ambassador Award, Richard Jenkins** was nominated for Best Actor for his turn in "The Visitor." Jenkins is the former artistic director of Trinity Repertory Company whose directorship was preceded by a 14-year tenure as a member of theatre's resident acting company

"We could not be more excited that three of the films that premiered last summer at the Rhode Island International Film Festival are being honored in this way. We are equally proud of Richard Jenkins nomination for Best Actor," said George T. Marshall, RIIFF's Executive Director/CEO.

"The reputation of RIIFF among filmmakers and the industry is that of a 'discovery' festival. Since 1999, we have seen 18 films screened at the Festival go on to receive Oscar nominations," he added.

RIIFF is also one of only 63 film festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Oscars, the only Film Festival in New England with that accolade.

The Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2008 will be presented on Sunday, February 22, 2009, at the Kodak Theatre at Hollywood & Highland Center®, and televised live by the ABC Television Network. The Oscar presentation also will be televised live in more than 200 countries worldwide.

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. This 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.

###