



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2010 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
Contact: George T. Marshall, Executive Director
georget@film-festival.org • 401.861-4445

RIIFF ANNOUNCES 2009 SCREENPLAY COMPETITION WINNERS

*324 submissions received from throughout the
United States and across the globe*

(PROVIDENCE, RI) • **Randi Barnes** from Los Angeles, California was the **Grand Prize Winner** for this year's **2009 Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) Screenplay Competition**. The awards announcement was made Wednesday by **George T. Marshall, RIIFF Executive Director**. The winning screenplay "**Haunted House Sitter**," follows the misadventures of twelve-year old Kirby Barrett who thinks he's found the ideal summer job taking care of his neighbors' house, but he gets more than he bargained for when it turns out to be haunted by a rather angry spirit.

From the New England region, local screenwriter **Peter Bohush** from Northbridge, MA, was among the top Prize Winners in the competition.

"It was an exciting year for us with this year's competition," said **Jenn Duggos**, Manager of the screenplay contest. "Our judges were extremely impressed by the outstanding quality of this year's submissions and the level of creativity."

According to **Demetria Carr**, RIIFF Managing Director, "Screenplay judges poured through 324 screenplay entries this year, the largest entry base in the competition's history. Each submission was analyzed and scored according to a set of five criteria, including Character, Dialogue, Setting, Plot and Technique.

"After extensive reading and deliberation among the judges, ten prizewinners were chosen in five different categories: Main Competition, Gay and Lesbian (GLBT), Local (New England) Focus, Horror, and Short Screenplay," she added. Each will come with its own set of awards."

"We could not be more pleased with the selection of this year's winners," noted **George T. Marshall**. "This competition continues to grow and expand, giving us access to some of the world's up and coming writers in the craft. The quality that we have seen this year makes for a truly inspiring and exciting competition. Additionally, we have set up an online entry portal through our partner, Withoutabox.com, so that this competition has gone green with the majority of entries being submitted in a digital format. This has allowed us to expand our adjudication committee, bringing in more industry professionals."

268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903 United States • 401.861.4445 (t) 401.490.6735
Email: georget@film-festival.org • Website: <http://www.RIFilmFest.org>

THE 2009 PRIZE WINNERS:

GRAND PRIZE:

Haunted House Sitter

Written by Randi Barnes, USA

FIRST PRIZE:

Bus Rider

Written by Andrew Bluestone, USA

(Tied with)

Last Pirate of New Providence

Written by **John Bain**, Canada

SECOND PRIZE:

Pants on Fire

Written by Peter Bohush, USA

HONORABLE MENTION:

Wilson

Written by Ernest Plock, USA

HONORABLE MENTION:

Buchanan

Written by Patrick Harrison, USA

BEST LOCAL:

Rum Runners

Written by Louis Rosenberg and Joe Rosenbaum, USA

BARREN BRANCHES GLBT COMPETITION:

Blood is Thicker

Written by Jeff Austin, USA

BEST SHORT SCRIPT:

Lost Dog

Written by Dean Friske, Australia

BEST HORROR SCRIPT:

The Sleeping Deep

Written by Jeffrey Blake Palmer, USA

Prizes awarded to the winners of the screenplay competition include: web placement services from **Inktip.com**, a free year of screenplay promotion services to the winners, through **ScreenwriterShowcase.com**; a 1-year Writers Database membership from **Script Pimp**; Full Script Delivery to over 3,000 industry professionals comprised of studio executives, producers, agents etc. through **ScriptDelivery.net**; **Final Draft Screenwriting Suites** from Final Draft software; books from **Michael Wiese Books**, and passes to the 2010 **Rhode Island International Film Festival** and **ScriptBiz Screenwriter's Workshop**. The Grand Prize winner from the main competition will be flown to Providence to attend the 2010 ScriptBiz program, where actors will give scenes from their screenplay a live reading.

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Lodging will also be provided.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The mission of the **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is to discover and empower filmmakers. Held in Providence, and at locations throughout the state, RIFF is one of only 63 film festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Oscars. It is also New England's largest film festival. 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. The next Festival will take place **August 10-15, 2010**. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

For more information about the **RIFF Screenplay Competition**, please visit the RIFF web site at www.rifilmfest.org.

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