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Photos Available Upon Request:

New Academy Award® Qualification for the Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival

Festival Receives News from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences®

PROVIDENCE, RI (March 15, 2014): **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** recently received exciting news not just for the Festival, but also for independent filmmakers. Since 2002, RIIFF has been an Academy Award® qualifying Festival in the Short Film Category. RIIFF is one of 75 such Festivals worldwide with this distinction and the only film festival in New England with this credential.

The Festival was recently notified by the Academy that it has a new distinction and can award another significant qualifying award.

From the letter received from the Awards Office Coordinator at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences®: "It is my pleasure to inform you that the Rhode Island International Film Festival has been accepted as an Academy qualifying festival for the Documentary Short Subject Award.

"Documentary short films that receive your Best Short Documentary Film Award may be eligible to enter the Documentary Short Subject competition for the concurrent season, provided that the films meet all the requirements set forth in our official rules for that season."

According to the Academy, "Recipients of the festival's Grand Prize for Best Short Documentary will qualify for consideration in the Documentary Short Subject category of the Annual Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules."

Currently, there are 34 film festivals worldwide that are qualifying Festivals in the newly designated Documentary Short Subject Award division. RIIFF once again is the only festival in New England with that distinction. **And, RIIFF is only one of 19 Festivals worldwide that qualifies films in both categories.**

"It is our great honor to now be able to award two top prizes at the Festival that will allow filmmakers to be eligible for Oscar® consideration," said George T. Marshall, RIIFF Executive Director. "Our Grand Prizes for Best Short Subject and Best Documentary Short will be on the fast track for Academy consideration."

According to Marshall, 33 of the films that either premiered or screened at the Festival have gone on to receive Academy nominations and there have been seven wins.

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top-10 festivals in the United States, **RIIFF** is one of **19 festivals** worldwide that is a qualifying festival for the **Academy Awards** in both short film and documentary short film through its partnership with the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences**.

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 5-10, 2014** at The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit www.RIFilmFest.org or call **401.861.4445**.

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