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AWARD WINNERS TO BE HONORED DURING THE 2013 FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Providence, R.I. • July 29, 2012) Flickers celebrates its **31st Anniversary Year** and kicks off its **17th Annual Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** in Providence, RI. This weeklong celebration of independent cinema and film arts is **New England's largest film festival and only Academy Award-qualifying event**. Out of more than 7,000 film festivals worldwide, only 75 share this distinction. In addition to award-winning film screenings, the festival will feature: the **Rhode Island Film Forum**, a region-wide educational workshop focused on bringing film production to the Ocean State and creating a constructive dialogue about the future of the film industry; awards ceremonies; the annual **ScriptBiz** screenwriting workshop; a **Providence Film Location Walking Tour** with the RI Historical Society; a panel on **FUTURE FILMMAKING: Digital Documentary Bridging Cultures** sponsored by the Rhode Island Council on the Humanities; and nightly networking events. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

RIIFF will honor the following award recipients during this year's Festival, **Aug. 6–11, 2013**. Flickers believes the following people have made lasting positive contributions to the world of film:

- **ROGER WILLIAMS INDEPENDENT VOICE AWARD** will be presented to writer/filmmaker **G. Wayne Miller** on **Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m.** at **The Vets**. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose vision promotes tolerance, compassion and understanding. The award is named after the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, who established an American tradition of religious freedom and individual liberty that was encoded in The Bill of Rights. This award honors a truly unique American whose ethics, philosophy and conscience reflects that of Roger Williams, who provided a refuge from rampant religious persecution, an open door to all people; a safe harbor in a vast sea of tyranny and oppression.
- **RIIFF SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AWARD** will be presented to **Alfred Thomas Catalfo** from New Hampshire for his screenplay for "*Betrayed*" on **Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m.** at **The Vets**. This award is presented to the Grand Prize winner of the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Mr.

Catalfo will also be a special guest at the 2013 ScriptBiz screenwriting workshop on Friday, Aug. 9, 2013.

- **SPOTLIGHT ON RHODE ISLAND AWARD** will be presented to **Rachel Smith** of Hope, RI, for her screenplay for "*Fix You Up*" on **Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m.** at **The Vets**. This award is presented to a writer whose screenplay focuses on the spirit and character of Rhode Island.
- **PRODUCER'S CIRCLE AWARDS** will be presented on **Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.** at **The Vets**. Winners this year are Rhode Islanders **Lew Place** of North Smithfield, Photographer and Webmaster, RI Film & Television Office; **Dana Neugent** of Newport, Film Media Professor at University of Rhode Island; **Sherilyn Brown** of Cranston, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Producers Circle Awards are presented to members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival. These Friends of the Festival have had a significant impact on the growth, evolution and quality of what has become RIFF.
- **CREATIVE VISION AWARD** will be presented to actor **Ioan Gruffudd** on **Saturday, Aug. 11, at 7:00 p.m.** at **The Vets**. The Award celebrates passion and creativity within the world of cinema, and will be presented to Mr. Gruffudd following the U.S. premiere of his film, "*Foster*," at The Vets.
- **CRYSTAL IMAGE AWARD** will be presented to Rhode Island actors **CJ Adams** ("*Against the Wild*," "*The Odd Life of Timothy Green*," "*Dan in Real Life*") and **Robert Capron** ("*The Way, Way Back*," "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*," "*Frankenweenie*") on Saturday, Aug. 10, at 12:00 a.m. at The Vets, during the KidsEye International Film Festival. The Crystal Image Award is presented to emerging artists whose outstanding work and vision epitomize new voices that must be heard; actors whose talent will have a positive impact in the future.
- **ROBERT ALDRICH "NEW DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR" AWARD** will be presented to **Tom DeNucci** during the Rhode Island Film Forum on **Thursday, Aug. 8, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Providence Biltmore Hotel Ballroom. Robert Burgess Aldrich, of Cranston, RI, was a successful director of many feature films and utilized a variety of genres to tell his stories. His films included "*The Longest Yard*," "*The Dirty Dozen*," "*Flight of the Phoenix*," "*Hush*," and countless others. Robert Aldrich began his career in Cranston, RI, and ultimately rose in the Hollywood ranks to be the President of the Directors Guild of America, serving from 1975-1979. This Award is presented to a director who has begun his career in Rhode Island and is following in the footsteps of Robert Aldrich, preparing to make a lasting mark on the industry.
- **RHODE ISLAND "PRODUCER OF THE YEAR" AWARD** will be presented to **Chad A. Verdi** during the Rhode Island Film Forum on **Thursday, Aug. 8, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Providence Biltmore Hotel. The RI Producer of the Year Award was created this year to recognize someone who really knows what it means to produce—in both quantity and quality—in the Ocean State. Chad Verdi, of East Greenwich, RI, is such a person. In 2013 alone, he produced "*Self Storage*," "*Army of the Damned*," "*A Bet's a Bet*," and is now in preproduction on "*Bleed For This*." This latter film is the story of Vinny Paz (formerly Vinny Pazienza, an Italian-American former boxer and world champion in the lightweight and

light middleweight weight classes from Rhode Island), and will be produced in Rhode Island this year with a budget of \$15–\$20 million. He has worked with talent including Kristen Chenoweth, Mena Suvari, Jonathan Silverman, Kenan Thompson, Eric Roberts, Robert Englund, William Forsythe, and many others, while maintaining a commitment to developing and nurturing the talents of actors and filmmakers in Rhode Island and building an industry right here in the Ocean State.

THE FLICKERS' BACKSTORY & MISSION:

The mission of the **Flickers, the Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative**, now in its **31st year**, has been to serve as a creative partner in the arts by uniting various media and arts disciplines that nurture the artistic process and support a vital part of our community. This includes multi-disciplinary art presentations; artistic and cultural activities; performance festivals; video and television productions; audio recordings and broadcasts; educational outreach programs; and the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

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 brings together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers each year. Ranked as one of the top 12 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. RIIFF is one of 75 film festivals worldwide—and the only in New England—to have this distinction. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

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