



For details, art or photos about FLICKERS media releases, contact Shawn Quirk ([quirk@film-festival.org](mailto:quirk@film-festival.org))

[PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST](#)

## FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 24<sup>th</sup> SEASON

### OPENING NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE RUSTIC DRIVE IN

Awards, Webinars, Virtual Film Screenings and Special Preview Night to Commemorate the 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of Flickers and a Celebration of International Friendship

#### ABSTRACT/CALENDAR LISTING:

**FLICKERS** presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual "VIRTUAL" Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF), which 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. RIIFF is widely recognized as a credentialled, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. 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 also a qualifying festival for the **Live Action, Documentary and Animation Short Film Academy Awards** through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. It is also a **BAFTA** (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and **Canadian Screen Awards** (Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television)-qualifying Festival. There are only **10 film festivals worldwide** that share this distinction. RIIFF is truly a place where the stars align! Aside from film screenings, the Flickers team has organized a number of events to encourage filmmakers and festival attendees to widen their knowledge of filmmaking as well as explore the incredible city of Providence that RIIFF is proud to call home.

For more information about the festival, please visit [www.rifilmfest.org](http://www.rifilmfest.org).

**WHAT:** 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival

**WHEN:** August 4-9, 2020

**WHERE:** Providence, North Smithfield, Westerly and Virtual locations online

**WHO:** Flickers, Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative, creator of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

**HOW MUCH:** Most of this year's programming is free except for several World Premiere titles available at \$2.00 per program; Drive-In double features are \$15 per carload.

To order call 401-861-4445 or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org).

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The 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FLICKERS' "VIRTUAL" RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (RIIFF), running August 4-9, 2020, is a major destination on the Festival circuit and recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a Qualifying Festival in all short film categories. It is the only Festival in New England with this accolade. The Festival welcomes stellar filmmaking talents from all

over the world to beautiful Providence, Rhode Island—one of America’s oldest and most beloved cities. This year, responding to the impact of COVID-19, the Festival will take a hybrid approach utilizing area Drive-In theatres with social distancing and protocols/guidance from the Rhode Island Governor’s Office and the Department of Health and for special screenings. Virtual programming will also take place online.

RIIFF embraces both filmmakers and screenwriters with the sort of warm-hearted spirit that fosters long-lasting friendships, sparks exciting creative projects, and inspires artists to return again and again. Last year, five films from the Festival received Oscar® nominations and one, “the Neighbor’s Window” by Marshall Curry, won for Best Live Action Short.

Along with double features at the Rustic and Misquamicut Drive-Ins, online webinars, industry workshops, special tributes, virtual coffee talks, filmmaker interviews, and post film screening Q&A’s, the 2020 Festival will continue popular annual programs. This programming includes the acclaimed Scriptbiz Seminar, the Rhode Island Film Forum, interviews on the Festival’s weekly Rhode Island PBS series, “doubleFEATURE,” the Youth Film Jury, KidsEye Screenings and online summer workshop, a virtual Awards program and the announcement of this year’s Winifred Brownell Scholarship Fund award winner.

The Full Festival Schedule will be available by the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> and will be evolving throughout the Festival, with new programming appearing daily. Links to films will appear on their scheduled play dates and remain live for a period of seven (7) days.

#### **2020 FESTIVAL DEDICATION:**

This year’s Festival is dedicated to the memories of the 671,983+ individuals who have lost their lives to COVID-19, including the more than 154,000 in the United States and the more than one thousand in the State of Rhode Island.

According to **George T. Marshall**, Flickers Executive Director, “In this period of great personal stress and professional uncertainty, our Board felt it important to pay tribute to those who are no longer with us due to COVID-19. Every life is precious and for those we have lost in such a tragic way -- whose lives were cut short so unexpectedly -- our programming is dedicated in their memory.”

**Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office said, “My favorite week of the year has finally arrived. We salute Flickers and the prestigious Rhode Island International Film Festival for celebrating 38 exciting years of excellence. Remarkably, it was only twelve months ago, on Opening Night at the glorious Veteran’s Memorial Auditorium (The Vets) when RIIFF illuminated our minds to a spectacular line up of movies from across the globe. Five films from last year’s Festival – including “A Sister” from Opening Night -- went on to be nominated for the elusive Academy Award! What an amazing journey!

According to **Shawn Quirk** RIIFF Program Director, “Annually we are treated by the quality of the various productions from around the globe; these films bring the world to Rhode Island and enlighten us in our cultural outlook. There is nothing more exciting and invigorating than being exposed to the incredible work created by these impassioned filmmakers. This time around we will be watching premieres of such films as Roko Belic's "Trust Me," Joshua Leonard's "Fully Realized Humans" Olivia Vaughn's "*Barefoot: The Mark Baumer Story*," Zach Ingrassci and Chris Temple's "Five Year's North," Jack Lawrence Mayer's "Big House," Molly Stuart's "Objector," Taghi Amirani's "Coup 53," Jure Pavlovic's "Mater," Bahman Tavooisi's "Los Nombres de Las Flores," Bob Balaban's "Shande." and many many more.

Over its six-day run, the Festival will make available online or at Drive-In screenings, close to 300 films that include multiple World/United States Premieres from 54 countries including Iceland, Israel, Iran, Croatia, Armenia, Turkey, Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom Belgium, China, Japan, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, France, Greece and 34 states in the US. The films for this year’s Festival were selected from a record entry base of **6,672** submissions.

#### **PREVIEW NIGHT BY THE BEACH**

To celebrate the Ocean State and this Summer of COVID-19, the Festival unofficially kicks off on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a special **Preview Night** hosted at the **Misquamicut Drive-In**, 316 Atlantic Ave., Westerly, RI. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., and car's positioning in the lot will be on a first-come first-served basis. Tickets must be ordered online and cash payments will not be accepted.

### OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION AT THE RUSTIC DRIVE-IN

It is a retro night at the movies when the Festival officially kicks-off at the **Opening Night Gala Double Feature Screening** on Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m. at the **Rustic Drive In**, 1195 Eddie Dowling Hwy, North Smithfield, RI. The hosts for the evening include **WLNE ABC-6**, **Michael Drywa, Esq.**, RIFF's Advisory Board President, and **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director of the RI Film & Television Office. The Festival will be using all three screens at the Rustic and presenting a double bill of premiere film work. The first program will be RIFF's signature salute to short films. Advance Tickets must be ordered online and cash payments will not be accepted.

Most of this year's programming will be free except for several World Premiere titles available at \$2.00 per streaming program; Drive-In double features are \$15 per carload. Advance Drive-In ticketing can be found at this URL: [www.riffilmfest.org](http://www.riffilmfest.org) or at the Festival Online Program Guide that will update daily: <http://prog.tsharp.xyz/en/riff/38/> (Available Wednesday, July 29, 2020)

**FLICKERS** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, its production, the Rhode Island International Film Festival, has screened **5,426** independent films and videos out of **68,337** entries, presented **1,322** World/North American premieres, featured over **1,100** entries that were locally produced, and hosted **4,915** filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over **453,000** film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival and its programming, not including those in New England watching its weekly broadcast and cable programming series, **doubleFEATURE** on Rhode Island PBS.

This year's Festival is presented by the **Rhode Island Film and Television Office**, **IMCS** (Integrated Micro-Chromotography Systems), the **Providence Tourism Council**, the **City of Providence - Arts Culture and Tourism**, the **Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**, **Rhode Island PBS**, **The Champlin Foundation**, **RIDE**, **WLNE ABC6**, and **Cox Media**,

### ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

RIFF is proud to be one of 10 Festivals in the world that is an Academy Award qualifier in the Live Action, Animation and Documentary Short categories and a qualifier with the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). With vanguard programming that seeks to showcase new voices in independent filmmaking from across the globe, RIFF serves as an exceptional platform from which to launch exciting careers for artists who deserve to be discovered. 11 films that have premiered at RIFF have won Academy Awards with a total of 71 nominations, and many have gained distribution with the likes of HBO, Showtime, PBS, Netflix and IFC. A wide range of competitive categories—including Comedy, Drama, Horror, Children's, LGBTQ, Documentary, Webisodes, Music Videos, Science Fiction, and Animated films—RIFF offers entrants and audience members a veritable buffet of great stories, surprises, and narrative formats. There's even a screenplay and teleplay competition, designed to give talented screenwriters some well-deserved industry credibility.

RIFF offers a variety of prestigious awards to some of the most talented artists in (and soon to be in) the business. The festival's Gilbert Stuart Artistic Vision Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Academy Award-winning actors Ernest Borgnine and Patricia Neal, Oscar-nominated actors Seymour Cassel and Cicely Tyson, acclaimed actors of stage and screen, Paul Sorvino and Theo Bikel, director Blake Edwards, special effects icon, Douglas Trumbull and production design legend, Joseph Alves. The festival's Creative Vision and Crystal Image Awards recognizing outstanding directors, actors, writers, film talent, have been awarded to such talents as Karen Allen, Zach Braff, Blythe Danner, Ioan Gruffudd, Rosa von Praunheim, Michael Showalter, composer Klaus Badelt, and children's book author Sandra Boynton. More than simply a film festival, RIFF champions artistic vision in any form and is dedicated to sharing that vision with a diverse and enthusiastic audience that hungers for great storytelling.

More information on the Festival, including advance ticket sales for screenings or special events, can be found at [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org). You can also write to RIIF, 83 Park Street, Suite 5, Providence, RI 02903; call 401- 861-4445; email: [info@film-festival.org](mailto:info@film-festival.org).

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