FLICKERS ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS 2021 SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

The Rhode Island International Screenplay Competition received 583 submissions from throughout the United States and across the globe and Awarded Prizes to 16 Screenwriters

(PROVIDENCE, RI – October 30, 2021) • Khara L. Campbell of the United States won the **Best Screenplay Grand Prize Winner** for this year's **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) **Screenplay Competition**. Campbell's winning screenplay is entitled **"Seahorse**."

George T. Marshall, RIIFF Executive Director/CEO, made the announcement of the 2021 awards that featured **583 entries** in competition. From these, **65 scripts** were selected as finalists and **16 scripts** were selected **Winners** by an international team of adjudicators.

This year's winners included **Patrick Clement**, who received this year's Grand Prize in the RI Spotlight on New England category for his script "New Hampshire Boy," **Lorenzo Guarnieri** from Italy, whose screenplay "The Greek Passage" was awarded the Grand Prize for Best International Screenplay, and **Zachary Tyler Vickers**, whose screenplay "Broken" received this year's Grand Prize in the category of Best Television Pilot.

http://www.film-festival.org/ScreenplayWinner21.php

Khara L. Campbell's winning script, "Seahorse" tells the story of Caroline and Chris Shaughnessy, a couple who appear to have earned all they could ever wish for - including each other - but in private, their hopes of becoming devoted parents have been devastated by a series of miscarriages. Their fortune soon starts to change for the better, but at what cost? Caroline no sooner finds out she is pregnant when she is diagnosed with the unfathomable.

"Khara L. Campbell's moving script reminds us all of just how fragile and precious these moments we share with one another really are. "Seahorse" is an incredible tale of courage and perseverance that will leave a profound impact on its audience, said **Shawn Quirk,** RIIFF Program Director.

"It was a great year for storytelling which was reflected in our screenplay competition. This year's entries were inventive and represented a dynamic collection of voices from across the globe. They were scored on criteria that included character, dialogue, setting, plot, structure and technique," added Quirk.

"After extensive and careful deliberation, prize winners were chosen in eight distinct categories: Best Screenplay, Best International, Screenwriting Discovery, Vortex Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror, Best LGBTQ, Spotlight on New England, Best Short Screenplay, Best Animation Screenplay, and Best Television Pilot," Quirk noted.

"Our sincere congratulations to this year's winners," stated George T. Marshall. "This competition continues to introduce us to some of the world's brightest and most talented writers in the craft."

<u>**THE 2021 PRIZE WINNERS:**</u>

BEST SCREENPLAY
GRAND PRIZE:
"Sea Horse" by Khara L. Campbell, Sudbury, MA

FIRST PLACE:
"Incarnations" by Albert M. Chan, New York City, NY

INTERNATIONAL SCREENPLAY
GRAND PRIZE:
"The Greek Passage" by Lorenzo Guarnieri, Italy

FIRST PRIZE:
"Chrysalis" by Alicia Albares, Spain

VORTEX HORROR/SCI-FI SCREENPLAY
GRAND PRIZE:
"Graven" by Michael Clifton, Charlotte, NC

FIRST PRIZE:
"Hiraeth" by Stephen Laughton, United Kingdom

JAMES L. SEAVOR LGBTQ SCREENPLAY
GRAND PRIZE:
"Sink or Swim" by Jeff Bretl, New York City, NY

FIRST PRIZE:
"Industry" by Jayce Baron, Woodland Hills, CA

RI SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ENGLAND
GRAND PRIZE:
"New Hampshire Boy" by Patrick Clement, Pratt, KS

FIRST PRIZE:
"Copal" by Kiki Tsakalakis, New Canaan, CT

BEST TELEVISION PILOT SCRIPT
GRAND PRIZE:
"Broken" by Zachary Tyler Vickers, United States

FIRST PRIZE:
"Grace in the Clutch" by Addie Talbott, Los Angeles, CA

BEST SHORT SCRIPT
GRAND PRIZE:
"Hawk Bells" by Kristian Mercado, New York City, NY

FIRST PRIZE:
"Musgrave" by Sean Patrick Higgins, New York City, NY

SCREENWRITING DISCOVERY
GRAND PRIZE:

"The Man in the Flying Lawn Chair" by Ryan Mekenian, Montebello, CA

FIRST PRIZE:
"Kate's Ballad" by Rory O'Connor, New York City, NY

Prizes awarded to the winners of the screenplay competition (which vary with the specific screenplay category) include: 1 Script Listing from **InkTip**; Final Draft software featuring **Final Draft Screenwriting Suites**; and Passes to the **2022 Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** and the **ScriptBiz™ Screenwriter's Workshop**.

The Best Screenplay Grand Prize winner will be brought to Providence to attend the **2022 ScriptBiz program**, where their screenplay will be a central focus of the program, plus receive a private script consultation and an official award on RIIFF's Opening Night Celebration on the stage of the 1,900-seat Vets located at One Avenue of the Arts, Providence. Lodging and transportation will also be provided.

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 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 a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Animation and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and the Canadian Screen Awards. There are only 10 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **August 8-14, 2022** at **The Vets**, please visit our website at **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call **401.861.4445**.

-- # # # --