

RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

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RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2006 EVENT

To Be Held August 8-13, 2006;

*Festival Celebrates National and International Diversity with
Celebrities and Emerging Stars from Around the World*

PROVIDENCE, RI (August 1, 2006): The tenth annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) will take place August 8-13, 2006 in locations throughout Providence and the state of Rhode Island. New England's largest film festival will feature 283 films from across the United States and representing over 40 countries in a truly statewide celebration of film. There will be **27 World Premieres** and **19 US Premieres**. A total of 48 Narrative Features will be screened and 29 Feature Documentaries. The films selected came from a pool of well over 2,000 entries. RIIFF's annual **Lifetime Achievement Award** will be presented to acclaimed actress Cicely Tyson and **Creative Vision Award** will be presented to local writer/director/actor, Michael Corrente.

Honorary co-chairs for the 2006 edition of the **Rhode Island International Film Festival** are Governor Donald Carcieri; Providence Mayor David M. Cicilline; and US Senator Jack Reed. Principal sponsors of the annual event are The City of Providence, The Providence Tourism Council, Rule Broadcast Systems, SONY, WJAR-NBC10, Feinstein IMAX Providence Place, Avid, Providence Monthly, Amtrak, Kodak, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, Motif, Clear Channel Communications, the Showcase Cinemas at Providence Place and Radio Disney. The Festival's 2006 design and look was created by Antonio Cortez.

This year RIIFF is partnering not only with Providence, but also with many cities throughout the state to bring this unique arts experience to the broadest audience possible. Partner cities and their venues include Newport at the Jane Pickens Theatre and the Redwood Library & Athenaeum; Kingston at the Courthouse Center for the Arts; and Cranston at the Black Box Theatre.

An official Academy Award qualifier in the short film category- one of only 60 worldwide out of more than 2700 festivals- RIFF takes flight on Tuesday, August 8th with an evening of ten remarkable short films.

OPENING NIGHT TARGETS SHORT FILMS

This year's opening screening will be bracketed before and after by two gala parties—one VIP and one public—at the Rotunda of One Citizens Plaza in downtown Providence. Rhode Island director, writer and actor, Michael Corrente will be receiving RIFF's annual **Creative Vision Award** at the Opening Night Screening. Past winners of the prestigious award have been German film director Rosa von Praunheim and Elaine Lorillard, Founder of the Newport Jazz Festival.

The VIP vibe of the Film Festival's opening reception will continue into the rest of the evening as the RIFF staff will be rolling out the red carpet to welcome filmmakers, public, and special guests into the Columbus Theatre for the Opening Night Screenings.

From acclaimed actors like David Strathairn and Edward James Olmos to animation directing legends Roger Allers and Henry Selick, to the presentation of the Creative Vision Award to Rhode Island's-own, director Michael Corrente, RIFF's Opening Night Gala will feature a program that is sure to dazzle.

"Our goal this year," said RIFF Executive Director, George T. Marshall, "has been to produce an opening event that will leave audiences wanting more. What better way to celebrate our 10th Anniversary than to break old molds and create an evening that we believe is daring and definitely original.

"We have done a lot of new things with our programming this year. Since RIFF is considered a "filmmaker's festival," we attempted to provide a platform for exposure to as many film artists as possible. We had a record number of entries this year—over 2,000—and from that we've selected a little more than 283 for screening throughout the week of the Festival. Many are World and United States premieres."

The Opening Night Gala for RIFF will feature 10 short films that will be screened for the first time; three will be animations.

"All three animated films come with unique pedigrees: Roger Allers directed the original 'The Lion King' for the Walt Disney Studios as well as creating the book for the Broadway musical production. He also wrote the stories for Disney's 'Aladdin,' 'The Emperor's New Groove,' and 'The Little Mermaid.' Allers directed this year's 'The Little Matchgirl,' which has its East Coast Premiere with RIFF," added Marshall.

The screening of "The Little Matchgirl" is the second Disney animated short to play at RIFF. In 2003, the Festival had the United States premiere of "Destino," a

collaboration between Walt Disney and Salvadore Dali, which went on to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Short.

“Animator Henry Sellick has submitted an original short entitled ‘Moongirl.’ Sellick is the director of such acclaimed stop motion films, ‘Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas’ and ‘James and the Giant Peach.’”

“Finally” said Marshall, “from New York director, Alex Weil, comes the computer generated ‘One Rat Short,’” which recently won Best of Show in the Siggraph — the 33rd International Conference and Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques. RIFF’s screening marks its Film Festival World Premiere.

“One Rat Short,” written and directed by Charlex, Inc. co-founder Weil, is not just a technical marvel; the film’s emotional tone, cinematography and technical realization all meld into a simple yet touching short film. Repeatedly, the two lead characters transfix our gaze with extreme close-ups, and audiences instantly wonder what they were thinking. It’s the ability for viewers to clearly empathize with the main characters’ desires that is one of the film’s single greatest achievements.

The lead characters are rats.

Before the Opening Night Screening there will be a special **VIP Pre-Gala Reception** beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the Rotunda at One Citizens Plaza in downtown Providence. Rhode Island filmmaker Michael Corrente will be feted along with visiting filmmakers and guests. This first reception is reserved specifically for filmmakers, sponsors, press, VIP ticket holders, and special guests. VIP tickets will be available to the public for one hundred dollars per person (\$100) on a limited basis. This cost includes access to all opening night events and parties. An RSVP is requested for this specific event.

After the Opening Night Screening, the public is welcome to return to the Rotunda at One Citizens Plaza for the **RIFF Opening Night Gala Party** kicking off at 9:30 p.m. It’s an open invitation to join the RIFF Team for a night of food and fun while celebrating the Opening of the 10th Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival. Sidney Frank Importing Co. is helping the fest ring in its Anniversary with panache by providing Jagermeister, Corazon Agave Tequila, and Michael Collins Irish Whiskey. Budweiser Select courtesy of McLaughlin & Moran and two ice sculptures. Admission to the Gala Party is \$35 with tickets sold in advance and at the door. Dress is casual evening attire; but come prepared for a dazzling party!

SIDEBARS ARE A HUGE PART OF THE FESTIVAL

The Festival will be presenting a series of unique sidebars. These include: The Providence Jewish Film Festival the Providence Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, in partnership with RI Pride; The Providence Film Festival which showcases work by local artists; and the Jubilé Franco Américain which salutes work by French Canadian filmmakers. Additionally, the Festival will include an animation

showcase; the KidsEye™ International Film Festival presenting films made by and for kids; and a preview to the Annual RI International Horror Film Festival that takes place each October. A series of forums on the state of the film industry called “Between Takes” will also be scheduled throughout the Festival.

RIIFF is excited to announce the return this year of ScriptBiz, an intensive workshop for aspiring screenwriters. For 2006, local filmmaker and program manager Toni-Ann Baker has developed an exciting and “action-packed” day for those devoted to the written word for the silver screen. Three lucky short scriptwriters will have the chance for their works to be read. In addition, participants will have the chance to pitch their story ideas to real filmmakers and agents on site.

RIIFF is also proud to continue its affiliation with the Grammy Awards. Al Gomes, president of The Big Noise, LLC expects this event to draw the best music composers and filmmakers within the industry. Music scores for entered films can be submitted in all 106 categories for the of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences annual Grammy Awards including Best Song Written for a Motion Picture.

A RECORD NUMBER OF FEATURES

A record 48 narrative features play at this year's Festival, many making their World and United States bows. The world premiere of **“Fat Rose and Squeaky”** directed by Sam Irvin features Cicely Tyson, Jo Anderson, Julie Brown, Lea DeLaria and Louise Fletcher; from director Frederic Lumiere, comes the world premiere of “Tomorrow is Today” with Scout Taylor-Compton, David Brown, Marc Hefti & Luke Pennington; **“Caffeine”** from director John Cosgrove also has its world premiere with a stellar cast including Mike Vogel, Mena Suvari, Katherine Heigl & Andrew Lee Potts; from Australia comes **“Wil”** directed by Jeremy Weinstein; Roy Disney's son Tim directs from the United Kingdom, **“Tempesta”** with a large cast featuring Paul Guilfoyle, Rutger Hauer and Malcolm McDowell; Alex Karpovsky's fest-popular **“The Hole Story”** receives a Providence play; **“Dreamland”** by Jason Matzner, features John Corbett, Agnes Bruckner, and Gina Gershon; an ensemble cast including Wayne Reynolds, Jorge Garcia, and Bryan Callen heats up **“Sweetzer,”** directed by Wayne Reynolds; **“Forgiven”** directed by Paul Fitzgerald features Kate Jennings Grant and Russell Hornsby; director Mia Goldman draws out powerful performances from Robin Tunney, Joel Edgerton, Cybill Shepherd, Elliott Gould & Scott Wilson in **“Open Window;”** from the United Kingdom comes Robert Lindsey's **“Deadpan Valentine;”** director Michael Meiners tells us about **“The Trouble with Dee Dee;”** actors Chad Lindberg, Emma Bing, Max Perlich and Robert Blanche are all about **“Punk Love”** by director Nick Lyon; from Vermont comes Jay Craven's latest, **“Disappearances”** with Gary Farmer, Genevieve Bujold, Kris Kristofferson, Lothaire Bluteau, Luis Guzman and William Sanderson; **“In-a-Day”** comes from the United Kingdom and directed by Evan Richards features Lorriane Pilkington, Finlay Robertson, Rose Keegan and Jake Broder; it's a **“Big Bad Swim”** by director Ishai Setton and cast members Paget Brewster, Jeff Brandon, Jess Weixler, Ricky Ullman, Todd Susman and Kevin Porter Young; and the unique, shot in one take

"The Circle" features David Proval, Angela Bettis, Scott Cohen & Henry Czerny from director, Yuri Zeltser.

It's hot, hot, hot action when Carmen Electra, Randy Spelling, James Best & Jason Priestely team up for Michael Damian's **"Hot Tamale;"** Robert Edwards leads Ralph Fiennes, Lara Flynn Boyle, Donald Sutherland and Tom Hollander into **"Land of the Blind;"** it's something unique and something **"Special"** for actors Michael Rapaport, Josh Peck & Alexandra Holden in Jeremy Passmore's film; Alyson Shelton directs "Eve of Understanding;" from director Jeff Morris is **"You Did What?"** with A.J. Buckley, Ed Kerr & Kathy Wagner; it's **"Shut Up & Sing"** for Molly Shannon, Chris Bowers, David Harbour, David Alan Basche, Elizabeth Reaser and Mark Feuerstein in Bruce Leddy's cinematic pastiche; Dee Wallace Stone, David Keith, Ned Romero & Robert Guthrie discover Rick Stevenson's **"Expiration Date;"** from Peter Cioffari comes **"Love In the Age of Dion;"** small town life is brought to the big screen in Richard Wong's **"Colma: The Musical"** H.P. Mendoza, Jake Moreno & L.A. Renigen; director Dave Mazzone goes to **"The 4th Dimension"** with Louis Morabito, Miles Williams, Karen Peakes, Kate Laross & Suzanne Inman; and director Tom Zuber tells us about **"Little Athens."**

Added to this year's Festival is a cinematic salute to Rhode Island director Michael Corrente. The three early works to be screened are **"Outside Providence," "American Buffalo,"** and his directorial debut, "Federal Hill;" the latter to be screened outdoors in downtown Providence.

The Horror genre is given its due with three feature presentations: **"The Great Yokai War"** by Japanese director, Takashi Miike, **"Header,"** a world premiere by Archibald Flancranstin; and the H.P. Lovecraft inspired, **"Call of Cthuhlu,"** by director, Andrew Leman.

There will also be films designed for the entire family including a unique presentation by Jim Henson's daughter, Heather, who comes to the festival with a new program entitled **"Heather Henson Presents 'Handmade Puppet Dreams;"** a series of shorts films by puppet artists; from the United Kingdom comes a Roadside Attractions/Samuel Goldwyn Films presentation of **"Lassie"** directed by Charles Sturridge and starring Peter O'Toole; and the fest finale is a newly restored print of the classic Rudolph Valentino & Louise Dresser epic, **"The Eagle,"** directed by Clarence Brown with music by the Alloy Orchestra.

DOCUMENTARIES DOMINATE

There are 52 documentaries playing at this year's RIUFF. The feature documentaries include Tim & Karen Morse's, gripping Holocaust story, **"Secret Courage;"** Peter Josyph's, **"Liberty Street: Alive at Ground Zero;"** Catherine Ryan, Gary Weimberg's **"Three Women and a Chateau;"** Steve Palackdharry's **"Journey to Justice;"** Mary Mazzio's story of American entrepreneurship, **"Lemonade Stories;"** Dean Budnick's North American Premiere of **"Wetlands Preserved: The Story of an Activist Rock Club,"** featuring Pearl Jam, 311, Moe, Phish, Richard Gehr, Mike Doughty, Robert Randolph, Spin Doctors, The Roots, Agnostic Front, Ben Harper, Blues Traveler, Bob Weir, Dave Matthews and

Hanson; the award winning and poignant **“Encounter Point”** directed by Ronit Avni, Julia Bacha; **“Dirt”** by Jeff Bowden, and Greg Biggerstaff; **“Pirate Radio USA”** directed by Jeff Pearson; **“A Life Among Whales”** by Rhode Island-native, Bill Haney; **“Flying Downhill: Bode Miller,”** directed by W.C. Rogers; Chris Arnold's controversial documentary about the female orgasm **“The O Tapes;”** Sara Sackner's **“Class Act”** with Andy Garcia, and Brett Ratner; the provocative boot camp **“ears open. eyeballs, click”** by Canaan Brumley; **“In the Shadows of the Palms”** from Australia and directed by Wayne Coles-Janess; the inspirational story a New England legend, **“Christa MacAuliffe: Reach for the Stars”** directed by Renee Sotile and Mary Jo Godges with narration by Susan Sarandon and music by Carly Simon; a fresh look at the conflict in the middle east with directed by Solo Avital; **“...More Than a 1,000 Words;”** from Denmark, Marcus Mandal's **“Karen Blixen: Out of This World”** featuring Meryl Streep; **“The Shape of Water”** directed by Kum-Kum Bhavnani, and narrated by Susan Sarandon; the US Premiere of Frank Robak's **“Statistics;”** an original and telling look at the **“Don't Ask, Don't Tell”** policy on gays with the US Military via Stu Maddox's **“Bob and Jack's 52-Year Adventure;”** a stark look at survival in Cambodia is revealed with Skye Fitzgerald's powerful **“Bombhunters;”** Tai Uhlmann's **“For the Love of Dolly”** provides an insider's look at the one and only Dolly Parton and her fan base; from Massachusetts comes **“Rex Trailer's Boomtown;”** by director, Michael Bavaro, and Jay Leno, Mike O'Malley & the man himself: Rex Trailer; **“Vajra Sky Over Tibet”** by John Bush, is as glowing documentary about tolerance in an increasingly intolerant world; and Donna Musil's **“Brats: Our Journey Home,”** speaks about the impact on military life with narration by Kris Kristofferson.

A SIDEBAR OF LGBT FILMS

The Rhode Island International Film Festival has built a reputation for the quality of its sidebar presentations which run the gamut of horror, kids, French and French-Canadian, German, sci-fi, Jewish, local, students to LGBT. This year RIFF will be presenting 24 new titles at its Providence gay and Lesbian Film Festival sidebar. These include Craig B Highberger's **“Jack Mitchell: My Life is Black and White;”** **“The Conrad Boys”** by actor/writer/director, Justin Lo, Barry Shay, Boo Boo Stewart, Bruce Blauer, Dorian Frankel & Justin Lo; **“Coffee Date”** with Deborah Gibson, Elaine Hendrix, Jason Stuart & Jonathan Bray from director, Stewart Wade; **“Whole New Thing”** from Canada by director, Amnon Buchbinder; **“Long-Term Relationship”** featuring Matthew Montgomery, Windham Beacham, Artie O'Daly, Jeremy Lucas, Bret Wolfe & Judy Farrell from writer/director, Rob Williams; director Chris Brown's **“Scared New World”** with Fanny Ara-Herms, Harriet Schiffer-Scott, Josh Millican, Lena Zee & Zachary Schramm; and finally Q. Allan Brocka's summer festival hit, **“Boy Culture.”**

A FOCUS ON LOCAL HOME-GROWN FILMS

RIFF not only runs master classes in production, it has a respected screenplay competition; produces a one-day seminar on pitching your script; provides outreach in the schools, has a year-round college internship program and provides technical and fundraising opportunities for other non-profits in the region. RIFF also has reached out to local and regional filmmakers through its sidebar called simply, The Providence Film Festival. Highlights if films being

screened this year include, Dr. Glenn B. Short's amazing Burmese documentary, **"Diamond in the Golden Land;"** David Souza's take on television news reporting that follows reporter Walter Buteau and photojournalist John Vilella through the streets of Providence **"Street Stories;"** Eugene Celico's Bocce-flavored coming-of-age, **"The Tournament"** with Michael Amitrano, Stephen DiMassa, Vini Ames & Vinny Pazienza; Eric Latek's film on boxing, **"Sweet Dreams"** Craig Shapiro's hockey epic about Mt. Saint Charles Academy, **"Ice Kings;"** and Diane St. Laurent's, **"A Lively Experiment: Dr. John Clarke, Co-Founder of RI (1609-1676)."**

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is a creation of the Flickers Arts Collaborative, an organization with 24 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public, produces RIFF.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org). Student, group, and senior discounts are also available but only in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445; or write RIFF, 268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto www.RIFilmFest.org.