



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rhode Island International Film Festival 2007

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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RIFF ANNOUNCES 11th ANNUAL FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST

Programming & Season Highlights For Event Stated August 7-12, 2007

(PROVIDENCE, RI) Now in its 11th season, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival™**, (RIIFF) will take place this year, August 7th through 12th, 2007. The Festival 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. With the ongoing support of the City of Providence along with corporate and community partners, the Rhode Island International Film Festival is now the largest film festival in New England. Ranked as one of the top 12 Festivals in the United States, RIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. It is the only festival in New England with this accolade.

Founded in 1997, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival** has quickly carved out a name for itself. It accepts films of any type, in any genre and screens around 200 international productions. Rhode Island native Bobby Farrelly was so impressed with the festival's debut that he held the world premiere of his next film, *There's Something About Mary*, at the 1998 event.

The Festival is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for "artistic interaction and exchange among independent filmmakers, directors, producers, distributors, backers and the film-going community". It is a safe haven for all independent filmmakers—a place where they can find freedom from high concept reinterpretations of classic films or one of the endless sequels.

In 2006, RIFF screened 308 titles in six days to appreciative crowds of over 23,000 people; making it the largest festival in New England. This year, RIFF will screen 285 films; selected from over 2,500 submissions. More than 90% of the RIFF schedule is created from these film submissions; and not culled from other festivals. This makes for a truly dynamic event where regional audiences discover original work and new filmmakers whose work often goes overlooked or underground.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** runs August 7-12, 2007. Most tickets, aside from special events, are \$10. The Festival website is www.rifilmfest.org and the office phone is (401) 861-4445. The Festival office is based at the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway, Providence, RI. A *special 50-cent Restoration fee has been added to all RIFF tickets this year to help spur the Restoration of the Columbus Theatre.*

KEY FESTIVAL THEMES for 2007:

- **PRESERVING OUR PAST:** In order to help spur the Restoration of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center, RIFF will be adding a Restoration Fee (50 cents) to all tickets and passes sold at all locations during the Festival.

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- **DARE TO DREAM: THE POWER OF IMAGINATION:** What defines man's creativity, is it in the heart or in the head? Where can imagination lead in the realm of the possible?
- **THE FUTURE IS TODAY:** Partnering with the Sierra Club and Save the Bay, RIFF will examine what makes for a "Green Festival" along with Global Ecological Awareness in a cinematic sidebar.
- **WHERE IS YOUR HEART AT?** What power does an individual have in our increasingly complex world? Is there a place for Personal Ethics, Social Responsibility, Morality and Matters of Conscience? What is the role and value of individual action? We promise no easy answers, but we will provoke thought.

PROGRAMMING AND FACTS ABOUT RIFF:

AN ECONOMIC AND CULTURE ENGINE- in 2006, 230 filmmakers from across the globe visited Providence during the film festival. Over 23,000 people attended RIFF events- 58% came from out-of-state. 2,263 room nights were booked by festival participants and visitors. 73% of those attending the festival said that they were planning to eat at a local restaurant during the festival.

A MAGNET FOR WORLDWIDE FILM TALENT- every year, RIFF attracts top international film talent to the state. This includes actors, directors, writers, producers, and other industry professionals. Many of them have gone on to direct projects in the state.

BENEFITS TO RHODE ISLAND: SHARING WITH OTHER NON-PROFITS AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS through the **RIFF Community Outreach and Adopt-a-Film Programs;** designed to provide fundraising and marketing opportunities for non-profit organizations in the greater Rhode Island region. RIFF tickets are provided to Rhode Island non-profits to be used for their fundraising purposes. Participating non-profits keep 100% of what they generate.

SIX FULL DAYS OF FILM SCREENINGS, GALA EVENTS, AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS, including the **OPENING NIGHT FILM SCREENING** and **GALA** at the restored **Providence Performing Arts Center**, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. Programming will consist of a collection of short films representing different genres as a salute to RIFF's affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Special Event Programming includes:

SCRIPTBIZ™, When: August 6, 2007. Got a great idea for a movie script, but don't know where to begin? Or have you finished that masterpiece, but no clue what to do next? Then ScriptBiz is your answer. ScriptBiz is a day long workshop that covers the nuts and bolts of being a scriptwriter. The RIFF ScriptBiz is now affiliated with Emerson College's Screenwriting Certificate Program and designed to guide writers not only through the creative process of writing, but ways to promote a screenplay to filmmakers through effective networking with tips on how to make a compelling pitch.

RHODE ISLAND FILM FORUM, When: August 8-9th, 2007 (two day program) at the URI Feinstein Campus, Providence that addresses the ins, outs and technology of shooting a film in Rhode Island. The **Rhode Island Film Forum** is designed to provide a networking platform, spur dialogue and get answers to your questions from those who make decisions. Programming includes, **Why Rhode Island Is Right For Your Film; Rhode Island Film & Television Tax Credit; Film & Entertainment Law 101; A Guide To Post-Production; Film Financing & Distribution; Marketing & Finding Your Audience;** and **Using The Web To Build A Portfolio** More than 30 presenters from the film industry will participate.

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CINEMATIC SIDEBARS THAT REFLECT THE RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY: **Films for Families (FFF); Golden Age of Cinema Saluting the Silent Film Era; Providence GLBT Film Festival; New England Student Film Festival; KidsEye™ International Film Festival; Providence Film Festival** (local work from the New England region); **Providence World Film Festival** (focus on Spanish and Portuguese Language Films) partnering with the Providence Latin American Film Festival; **Providence Jewish Film Festival** partnering with the Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival; **East-West Crossroads: Asian Film Festival** (Films from China and Japan); **Jubilé Franco Américain** (films from Canada and France); **Roving Eye Documentary Film Festival** (introduced in April 2006) continues with during RIFF with important documentary work from around the globe; **Vortex Sci Fi &**

Fantasy Film Festival introduced with RIFF 2007 with screenings scheduled for the Fall and Winter; **RI Student Film Festival**: Screenings of student films from Providence College and the URI Visualizations Film Festival

PARTNERSHIPS THAT SHARE EXPERIENCE, VISION AND RESOURCES

Providence Latin American Film Festival; Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival; National Center for Jewish Film, Waltham; University of Rhode Island; Providence College; Brown University; CityArts; Save-the-Bay; The Sierra Club and RI Pride

OVER 280 INDIVIDUAL FILM TITLES TO BE SCREENED at this year's film festival at multiple venues in Providence, Newport, Kingston, Narragansett, Pawtucket, Tiverton; Westerly and Warwick. Venues include the Columbus Theatre Arts Center; Providence Performing Arts Center; the Cable Car Cinema; Feinstein IMAX Providence Place; Bank of America City Center; URI Feinstein Campus Theatre; Providence Public Library; Providence Black Repertory Theatre; Westminster Park (Providence); the CCRI Newport Campus; the Courthouse Center for the Arts (Kingston); The Pier Cinema (Narragansett); Slater Mill Park and the Blackstone Valley Visitor's Center (Pawtucket) and the Warwick Art Museum (Warwick).

ACTORS APPEARING IN RIFF FILMS SCREENING IN 2007

Bryce Dallas Howard, Minnie Driver, Lukas Haas, Neve Campbell, Kristin Kreuk, Alfred Molina, Brad Paisley, Jill Eikenberry, Seymour Cassel, Harry Groener and Michael Tucker, Alexa Vega, Vincent Pastore, Harrison Ford, Alan Cumming, Anne Heche, Carrie Fisher, David Boreanaz, Karen Black, Kevin Sorbo, Jennifer Tilly, Andie MacDowell, Russell Means, Colm Feore, Rupert Graves, Charles Dance, Joseph Mazzello, William Baldwin, Kathleen Quinlan, Harold Lloyd, Julie Andrews, Elvis Presley, Ann-Margret, Ian McKellen and Steve Coogan

FILMS TO BE PRESENTED AT RIFF HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD: Over 70 countries will be presented. From an entry base of over 2,500 films, RIFF 2007 films have come from Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Romania, Israel, Croatia, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, The Netherlands, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Afghanistan Chile, Bosnia, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Russia, Sweden, Taiwan, Finland, Poland, South Africa, Nigeria, India and the United States, to name a few.

NEW ENGLAND'S LARGEST FILM FESTIVAL, as reported in the Boston Globe in 2006. The festival was also named by MovieMaker Magazine as one of the top "20 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee"- along with AFI Dallas, Rome International, Nantucket, Provincetown International, and San Francisco International film festivals.

THE ONLY FILM FESTIVAL IN NEW ENGLAND THAT IS AN ACADEMY AWARD QUALIFYING FESTIVAL- only 61 film festivals (out of over 3,000 worldwide) have been awarded this accolade. In 2006, two films that had their premieres at RIFF were nominated for an Academy Award: Disney's "A Little Matchgirl", as well as the documentary short "Recycled Life".

For more information about the Rhode Island International Film Festival web site at www.RIFilmFest.org