

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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THE 2007 PROVIDENCE GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH A FOCUS ON ADDRESSING SOCIETAL ISSUES

The Rhode Island International Film Festival Once Again Hosts
Popular Gay & Lesbian Sidebar August 7th-12th

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (July 25, 2007)— One of the most popular cinematic sidebars of the annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival** returns for its 11th year: the **Providence Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**, August 7th-12th. Films made by, for and about the GLBT community have played an integral role in the RIIFF, one of New England's premiere film festivals. This year the GLBT festival is screening 29 films from across the globe on an array of topics that touch everything from relationships, gay marriage to military policy. A key theme that will surface throughout the Festival is the role of the individual in society and where does one's conscience begin and social responsibility end. This theme is pointedly addressed by four of this year's most significant GLBT films that will be screened.

"One of our major goals has been to seamlessly integrate these exceptional films with non-GLBT films in order to introduce general audiences to work they might not otherwise see. The 29 films selected to represent this popular sidebar have been spread throughout the festival and not locked into one time zone nor screening location," said Philip Capobres, RIIFF's Director of Operations and programmer for this sidebar.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival**TM will take place August 7th through 12th, 2007. Ranked as a one of the Top 12 Film Festivals in the United States, this world-class festival will be held at venues around Providence. It features screenings, filmmaking workshops, meet-and-greet industry events and seminars. Aiming to promote Rhode Island as a filmmaking location and to celebrate the independent filmmaking spirit, RIIFF also hosts a number of high-profile premières and provides a showcase for international features, documentaries, and shorts.

This films in this year's **Providence Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** sidebar cover a wide range topics and include such stars as Alan Cumming, David Boreanaz, Anne Heche, Carrie Fisher, Karen Black, Henry Thomas, Jane Lynch, Ian McKellen, Steve Coogan and Tori Spelling; a documentary on Sam Wagstaff and photographer Robert Mapplethorpe; musician/poet Patti Smith; films on love, loss, social roles, a beauty pageant for transsexuals; a documentary on an American pop artist, and much more.

SELECT GLBT HIGHLIGHTS:

In the documentary "**Tell**" directed by Tom Murray, the United States' "don't ask, don't tell" gay military policy is explored in relationship to how other allied countries have made it a non-issue. In the

268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903 United States • 401.861.4445 (f) 401.490.6735 Email: adams@film-festival.org • Website: http://www.RIFilmFest.org film, a diverse range of GLBT would-be soldiers and veterans are interviewed as well as representatives from organizations fighting for an end to the policy and for equal treatment and respect to those who have proudly served. The film will be shown at **Dark Lady**, 124 Snow St, Providence, RI 02903, 401. 831.4297 on Thursday, August 9th at 7 PM.

The film "God Only Knows: Same Sex Marriage" directed by Brent Kawchuk makes its US Premiere at RIIFF. The deeply personal values of a gay minister and a religious-right family man collide when they agree to exchange lives to debate same-sex marriage. This film premieres Friday, August 10th at 1 PM at the URI Feinstein Campus, 80 Washington Street in Providence.

The hot romantic comedy that was a centerpiece film at this year's NewFest in New York makes its Rhode Island debut: **"A Four Letter Word**" directed by Casper Andreas, whose last two films "Slutty Summer" and "Mormor's Visit" played RIIFF in 2005, promises to turn up the Festival heat. The critically acclaimed film follows an ensemble of characters in their daily lives in New York City, navigating sex, love, and relationships. The screening takes place on Friday, August 10th, 9:30 PM at the Columbus Theatre, 270 Broadway, Providence.

A complete list of films screening at this year's GLBT Festival follows with show times and venues. Along with these 29 films made for, by, and about the GLBT community, the Rhode Island International Film Festival will be screening 300 plus films the week of the festival on an array of brilliant topics that will be sure to captivate its audiences. As the largest film festival in New England, RIIFF prides itself in screening the best of independent film there is, at venues throughout the state of Rhode Island.

In 2005, RIIFF screened over 272 titles in six days to appreciative crowds of over 21,000 people; making it the largest festival in New England. This year, RIIFF will screen 282 films; selected from more than 2,000 submissions. From these, more than 90% of the RIIFF schedule has been created; and not culled or curated 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 is supported in part by the City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, Clear Channel Communications, Sony, Rule Broadcast Systems, WJAR TV10, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, Radio Disney, Motif magazine, here, Edge Publications, Inc., GET Rhode Island Magazine Passport Magazine, Next Magazine, Outlook Magazine, Columbia Fun Maps, Pink Pages, The Guide and contributions from members and community supporters.

The Flickers Arts Collaborative, an organization with 25 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public, produces RIIFF.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIIFF 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 RIIFF, call 401-861-4445; or write RIIFF, 268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto www. RIFilmFest.org.

August 8, 2007 • 12:30 PM, Columbus Theatre, Providence

BLACK, WHITE + GRAY James Crump, director 77 min. USA 2007

www.blackwhitegray.com

In the '70s and '80s, the relationship between legendary curator Sam Wagstaff, photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and musician/poet Patti Smith was at the epicenter of New York's revolutionary art scene. This engrossing documentary features interviews with Smith and a bevy of art world luminaries including Dominick Dunne, Richard Tuttle, Eugenia Parry and Ralph Gibson.

Two burgeoning artists—both of whom would become seminal icons in their field—once shared a loft apartment on West 23rd Street near the famous Chelsea Hotel. Before Patti Smith released her 1975 landmark debut album Horses, and Robert Mapplethorpe's photography was causing national debates about public arts funding, the two of them formed a unique troika with legendary curator and collector Sam Wagstaff. With this engrossing documentary, writer and curator James Crump makes a triumphant directorial debut by painting an illustrious portrait of the complex ties between these three visionaries. As the only one of them still living, Patti Smith, along with such luminaries as Dominick Dunne, Richard Tuttle, Eugenia Parry, Timothy Greenfield-Sanders and Ralph Gibson, reminisce about a time when CBGB's, Studio 54 and the Meatpacking District (where a gay/S&M underworld had emerged) all were thriving. Poignant insights illuminate particularly the seminal relationship between Wagstaff and Mapplethorpe lovers and catalysts for each other. Wagstaff was already a major figure in the art world when he met Mapplethorpe, having curated nationally recognized exhibits during his tenure at both Hartford's Wadsworth Athenaeum and Detroit's Institute of Fine Arts. He became the preeminent collector of photography at a time when photography had yet to be recognized as an artistic commodity, and was also the central force in the meteoric rise of Mapplethorpe's career. Crump meticulously illustrates the varied sides of these two enigmatic figures, and their close bond with Patti Smith, and arranges the pieces of this film—a story of love, friendship and personal transformation—into a carefully curated whole.

<u>August 8, 2007 • 3:00 PM, URI Feinstein Campus, Providence</u>

THE YEAR OF PAPER

Nikki Parker, Kelly Rouse, directors

91 min. USA, 2007

When officials began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004, this country went to war over a word. How different is a gay marriage from a heterosexual one?

THE YEAR OF PAPER chronicles the newlywed year of three couples -lesbian, heterosexual and gayexploring how saying ?I Do? has changed their relationships. The film also follows the firestorm of debate that surrounds the very idea of marriage for same-sex couples.

August 8, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence.

DIRTY MARTINI

Eva Saks, Director 30 sec. USA, 2007

Sometimes relationships aren't always what they appear to be. (PSA)

August 8, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

AIRPLANES

Jen Heck, Director

10 min. USA, 2006

Two teenaged girls hook up at a carnival, but when evening falls, their tentative friendship threatens to dissolve.

<u>August 8, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence</u> FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

Joe Tucker, director

11 min. United Kingdom, 2007

US Premiere

Cast: Ian McKellen and Steve Coogan

Graham lives with his tyrannical Mother and their pet Jackdaw in a Christian bookshop, trapped in the seedy outskirts of a decaying nowhere town. He and his Mother both love God... but in very different ways. Will Graham consummate his unholy fantasy and can it live up to his expectations?

For The Love of God, voiced by Ian McKellen and Steve Coogan, is director Joe Tucker's graduation film for the National Film & Television School. An eccentric and unsettling comedy, it was, this year, both the only British and the only animated film selected for the prestigious Cinefondation programme at the Cannes Film Festival.

August 8, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

SUFFERING MAN'S CHARITY

Alan Cumming, Director

92 min. USA, 2007

Cast: Alan Cumming, David Boreanaz, Anne Heche, Carrie Fisher, Karen Black, Henry Thomas, Jane Lynch

John Vandermark (ALAN CUMMING) has taken in a struggling writer, Sebastian St. Germain (DAVID BOREANAZ) who overstays his welcome. When John discovers that Sebastian has simply been using him, he turns the tables on his young tenant in an effort to make him work off his rent debt. Sebastian accidentally dies in the process, and John tries to make it up to him by helping get his book published posthumously. When the book is published, John can't help but take credit for the work of genius... and Sebastian comes back to haunt him.

<u>August 9, 2007 • 12:00 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence</u>

IN DREAMS AWAKE

Ed Commons, director

81 min. USA 2006

He painted Elvis and Jonas Salk, screaming angels and talking cows,drag queens and cowboys, landscapes lit by shooting stars, mammoth hearts beating wildly in the sky, athletes dancing cheek to cheek, frenzied fundamentalists and scenes of sacred solitude. The paintings themselves seem to take a compulsively raucous delight in telling stories of enchantment and wonder and love.

Fearing that the organized efforts of the religious right would result in a mindless intolerant world, many of his paintings are really political cartoons that portray a fervent respect for the first amendment.

In Dreams Awake is the heartfelt story of William Joseph Petrie, a man loved by a myriad of friends and family who, in their candid interviews, weave the rich story of this prolific painter, tobacco farmer, political activist and passionate gay man living in the rural bluegrass of Kentucky. It is a vivid look at the man, his work and the impact his life and art continue to have. It is a peek at where a generation has been and how the collective memories of a group, held together by one common thread, create a lasting legacy and tribute to their friend, brother, uncle, lover....artist.

August 9, 2007 • 1:00 PM, Columbus Theatre, Providence

SCARRED

Damien Rea, director

10 min. UNITED KINGDOM, 2007

Cast: Chris Anderson, David Durham and Lara Cazalet

Rafi is a young man in a state of flux who carries around a telling reminder of his turbulent past: a prominent scar on his cheek. He is trying to start a new life. Best friend Celia, a would-be photographer and no-nonsense mentor, is on a mission to get him 'sorted'. Then along comes Joe, a mysterious, compelling character who seems to take everything in his stride. Rafi is inexorably drawn to him, but why? Part romance, part mystery, SCARRED explores how a young man's face can betray and influence his past, present and future.

August 9, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

DECONFLICTION

Edward Tyndall, director

12 min. USA 2007

World Premiere

Deconfliction delves into the mind of Tina Highland, an individual struggling to make peace with his conflicted gender identity; a conflict that Tina believes may have been caused by the Cold War.

August 9, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

TELL

Tom Murray, director

USA, 2007, 83 min, Video

Documentarian Tom Murray returns with another timely film exploring the US military's shameful "don't ask, don't tell" policy. As in his previous films, Murray puts a human face to the issue by interviewing a diverse range of LGBT would-be soldiers and veterans, as well as representatives from organizations fighting for an end to "don't ask, don't tell," and for equal treatment and respect to those who have already proudly served. With no real end in sight to the US's current military involvement abroad, Tell adds to the debate by questioning why willing and able potential recruits are kept from serving based on institutionalized discriminatory practices.

August 10, 2007 • 1:00 PM, Providence Public Library

COURAGE DOESN'T ASK

Joe Acton, director

12 min. USA, 2006

'Courage Doesn't Ask' is a 12-minute movie about a veteran of the Iraq war who has lost his leg in combat. Blurring reality with fiction, this live-action short begins in a hospital as he is being fitted with his artificial leg and then flashes back to the night battle in which he was wounded.

The battle sequences, shot night-for-night, are filmed as though through the lens of an embedded camera crew. And as in battle, some men live, some die, and some distinguish themselves with valor.

The reveal at the end of the movie is that three of the actors are actual combat veterans who were awarded the Bronze Star for their actions while serving in the military. And all are GAY.

August 10, 2007 • 1:00 PM, URI Feinstein Campus, Providence

FLOAT

Kareem Mortimer, director

35 min. Bahamas, 2007

Cast: Jonathan Murray and Stephen Williams

Every one of us needs a place of refuge, a place where we feel safe to reveal our hurt and share our joy and innermost thoughts with like-minded, empathetic companions. This place of refuge is what we call community. Now imagine this community stripped from you. Imagine these companions in your place of refuge ostracizing, victimizing, beating and threatening you because of your sexuality. Welcome to the world of Jonny Andrew, a young painter from the crowded inner city of Nassau who

travels to the beautiful island of Eleuthera to clear his mind, there he meets the beautiful and sexually forward Romeo, it is on that island they form a friendship in which they teach each other valuable lessons of love, friendship, risk and freedom.

August 10, 2007 • 1:00 PM, URI Feinstein Campus, Providence

GOD ONLY KNOWS: SAME SEX MARRIAGE

Brent Kawchuk, director 63 min. CANADA, 2005

US Premiere

In the film God Only Knows: Same-Sex Marriage, the deeply personal values of a gay minister and a religious-right family man collide when they agree to exchange lives to debate same-sex marriage in a fascinating television documentary experiment. From conservative Alberta beef country, to the heart of Vancouver's gay community; these men move into each others homes and lives and attempt to hang on to their belief systems while facing off with the opposing social networks.

Dylan Crozier is a church pastor who ministers to a West Vancouver gay community. He and his partner, Vinnie Chiodo live together and firmly believe in the right of same-sex people to marry. Craig Chandler is CEO of the Concerned Christian Coalition, a lobby group dedicated to furthering the values of the socially conservative and religious right. Craig and his wife Julie live in Calgary with their two children.

Over the course of two weeks, Dylan and Craig enter each other's worlds and argue their viewpoints on same-sex marriage with family, friends and politicians. It's a life-altering experience that bounces both men clear out of their comfort zones and into every emotional facet of the human condition. The result is fascinating, hilarious, and so emotionally-charged it threatens to topple the domestic bliss of at least one household.

August 10, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

PRIVATE LIFE

Abbe Robinson, director

16 min. United Kingdom, 2006

In 1952 England, Ruth leaves the monotony of her work at a textile mill and secretly takes the train to Manchester, where a secret rendezvous reveals that nothing is quite what it seems.

August 10, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

SIGNAGE

Rick Hammerly, Director

13 min. USA 2006

A chance encounter with a young deaf man forces a forty-one year old to face his ambiguous future in today's youth-obsessed gay world

August 10, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

RED WITHOUT BLUE

Brooke Sebold, co-director

74 min. USA 2006

In 1983, identical twins Mark and Alexander Farley were born minutes apart in Big Sky country. The twins' early lives were quintessential by-products of their all-American family: picture perfect holidays, a second home by the lake, supportive parents cheering them on. By the time they were 14, their parents had divorced, they had come out as gay, and a joint suicide attempt precipitated a forced separation of Mark and Alex for two and half years.

Today, Mark is attending art school in San Francisco, and Alex is living as a woman named Clair in New York. RED WITHOUT BLUE explodes our notions of self-hood and sexual identity through its deeply

personal look at the unique and unconventional relationship between Mark and Clair as they mature into adulthood.

Extensive interviews with each twin candidly depicts the difficulties of growing up gay in Montana, and the boundaries crossed as drugs and sexual experimentation spiraled out of control. Lyrical vignettes illustrate these darker periods of the twins' adolescence through hauntingly beautiful, manipulated home-movies, family photographs, and experimental sequences shot on super-8 film. RWB examines the singular bond that the twins shared as children, the hardships they bore, and Mark's evolving perspective now that his identical twin ceases to be identical. Through the power of Mark's voice we hear the story of his family's redemption from a dark past, and ultimately, its revival to the present.

August 10, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Theatre, Providence

FAMILY REUNION (Gódir gestir)

ÍSOLD UGGADÓTTIR, Writer/Director/Editor

20 min. ICELAND, 2007

A modern-day coming out story about a young Icelandic woman living two separate lives. In "Family Reunion" Katrín, a sculptor in NYC is headed from grungy Chinatown back to pristine Iceland for her grandfather's 70th birthday. Katrín's family members in Iceland are beside themselves with excitement over the daughter's expected return, not to mention the arrival of the highly popular American goods they've requested. Katrín will soon find herself reunited with her family who enthusiastically engage her in discussions about marriage, children and her future.

August 10, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Theatre, Providence

THE WRITE STUFF

Stacy Dymalski, director

8 min. USA, 2007

When 12-year-old Charlie Dodgson wins an essay writing contest he sees big dreams of someday becoming a writer. However, before his piece can be published, Charlie must be reviewed by "seasoned" editors who slowly chip away at the originality of his work. When finally faced with the decision of making the suggested changes or risk having his award revoked (which includes a \$5,000 college scholarship) and his story unpublished, Charlie learns the high cost of integrity.

August 10, 2007 • 9:30 PM, Columbus Theatre, Providence

A FOUR LETTER WORD

Casper Andreas, director

USA, 2007, 87 min, Video

Casper Andreas' debut feature, Slutty Summer, played RIFF in August 2005, so we are excited to welcome him back to the festival with his sexy, appealing new romantic comedy, A Four Letter Word, as one of our Centerpiece screenings. A Four Letter Word follows an ensemble of characters in their daily lives in New York City, navigating sex, love and relationships. At the center of it all is Luke (Jesse Archer), an attractive and witty Chelsea boy who works at a sex shop with the cute gay activist, Zeke (Cory Grant). Zeke (who, incidentally, swears by hot, naked yoga) believes there's more to Luke than he lets on, masking it through one-night stands and a party lifestyle. Luke meets Stephen (Charlie David, Dante's Cove) at a bar, but the hunky self-proclaimed artist initially dismisses Luke as a "gay cliché." When they later inadvertently hook up in a backroom, they figure, what the hell?, and embark on a new relationship.

Luke even takes Zeke's advice to heart and attends a sex compulsives meeting to try to get a handle on monogamy. But Stephen's keeping a few secrets - he doesn't seem to be enrolled in the New School, as he's indicated, and more importantly, though Stephen claims to be able to afford his amazing apartment because of a trust fund, Zeke finds his profile on callboy.com! As Luke tries to get the truth

out of Stephen, he realizes that some four letter words, like love, are a lot more complicated than he thought.

August 10, 2007 • 10:00 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

CTHULHU

Daniel Gildark, director

114 min. USA, 2007

Cast: Cara Buono, Tori Spelling and Jason Cottle

A gay history professor returns to the small town that ostracized him years before to execute his late mother's estate. Falling into an amorous reunion with his closest boyhood friend, he uncovers the bloody past of his father's New Age cult while accelerating events take on a sinister - even apocalyptic - significance.

August 11, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

PARIAH

Dee Rees, Director 28 min, USA, 2006

A Bronx teen unsuccessfully juggles multiple identities to please friends and family.

August 11, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

WILL YOU

Robert Gaston, Director

11 min. USA, 2006

Terry (Amanda Williamson) wants to ask Allison (Liz Douglas) to marry her, but can't afford a ring. She sets up a rather elaborate hoax with her guitar-crooning friend Ben (Houston Bernard). When Ben's focus shifts from their mission at hand to handsome potential love interest, Randy (Adam R. Deremer), hilarity ensues.

August 11, 2007 • 7:00 PM, Dark Lady, Providence

LOVE AND MARRIAGE

Robert Wagner, director

50 min. USA, 2007

We hear from spokespeople both pro and con who feel very strongly about the issue of gay marriage. At the same time we visit with gay couples who are creating families and having children without the 1800 or so protections routinely granted to those who are legally married. Is gay marriage THE civil rights issue of out time or is it merely a right denied to the gay community that will never become the norm?

August 11, 2007 • 8:15 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

GAY ZOMBIE

Michael Simon, director

20 min. USA 2007

Trapped in the closet during his waking life, a zombie is given a second chance to come out.

August 11, 2007 • 8:15 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

THE SECRET BEHIND THE PHOTO

Brian Chan, director 7 min. USA, 2007

US PREMIERE

Cast: Joshua Bevier, Ruth Macy and Heather McHugh

After her son's funeral, the mother comes to her boy's room watching his photo (with his girl friend in the picture) for a long time. However, she finds out something behind the photo. She takes away the photo

and finds out there's another recent photo behind. It's a good looking man kissing her son. Then the story begins...

August 11, 2007 • 8:15 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

BACK SOON

Rob Williams, director

83 min. USA, 2007

The writer/director and stars of last year's popular "Long-Term Relationship" return to RIIFF with this romantic drama. Logan, a cute would-be actor, is finally selling the house he shared with his recently deceased wife, Adrienne. When he meets the handsome buyer, Gil, a reformed drug dealer who feels inexplicably drawn to the house, the two straight men unexpectedly fall in love. But there's more to their strange connection than either man suspects...

<u>August 11, 2007 • 10:00 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence</u> FOREVER

Jeremy Beim, Director

15 min. USA, 2007

This is the story of four men whose lives are interconnected by the sexual partners they share. In their search for acceptance, they lose focus from what they have always been looking for: love.

<u>August 11, 2007 • 10:00 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence</u>

ROCK POCKETS

Trevor Anderson, Director

6 min. CANADA, 2007

Rock 'n' roll, sexual identity, and the politics of coalition, as seen through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy at the fair.

August 11, 2007 • 10:00 PM, Columbus Cinematheque, Providence

TRANTASIA

Jeremy Stanford, director

88 min. USA, 2007

TRANTASIA is a no-holds-barred behind-the-scenes look at the first-ever 'World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Pageant.' With a starring role in a sensational new Vegas Revue as a high-stakes backdrop, TRANTASIA explores the intensely private and moving stories of its extraordinary contestants. Told through provocative hometown profiles and heartbreaking one-on-one interviews, the film documents the sometimes humorous, always personal journeys of these true survivors. United by common histories of hardship and persecution, these women will finally realize their diva dreams. Their ultimate triumph is a moving celebration of the human spirit.

RIIFF GLBT 2007 Theatre Venues:

Columbus Theatre Arts Center

270 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903 401.621.9660 815 seats downstairs; 200 seats upstairs, www.columbustheatre.com

University of Rhode Island, Feinstein Providence Campus

80 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903 401.277.5000 200 capacity, www.uri.edu/prov

Providence Public Library

150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903 401.455.8000 200 capacity, www.provlib.org

Dark Lady GLBT Screenings 124 Snow St, Providence, RI 02903 401. 831.4297

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