

RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

RIIFF 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL PROGRAMMING & SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AUGUST 8-13, 2006

Now in its tenth year, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival™**, (RIIFF) will take place August 8th through 13th, 2006. 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.

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 première 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 all the MI3's, overblown CGI effects and high concept reinterpretations of classic films.

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 over 2,000 submissions. More than 90% of the RIIFF 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 8-13, 2006. 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.

NEW 2006 PROGRAMS

- **Roving Eye Documentary Film Festival** introduced in April 2006
Screening 25 premiere films, with year-round screenings planned; screenings were presented across Rhode Island, free to the general public.
- **Vortex Sci Fi & Fantasy Film Festival** introduced in June 2006 with screenings scheduled for the Fall.

MAIN RIFF PROGRAMS & HIGHLIGHTS: 2006

• **RIFF Annual Awards**

Each year, RIFF Awards are presented to honor outstanding filmmakers. Awards to be given at this year's festival include: RIFF Humanitarian, Creative Vision, Crystal Image, Lifetime Achievement. Past recipients include Kim Chan, Seymour Cassell, Blake Edwards, Patricia Neal, Rosa von Praunheim, Elaine Lorillard, Michael Showalter, Zach Braff, and Danny Trejo. Past Attendees of the festival include: Stephen Collins, Julie Andrews, Andrew McCarthy, Billy Gilman, Steve Buscemi and the above-mentioned artists.

- RIFF's **Lifetime Achievement Award** will be presented to acclaimed actress **Cicely Tyson** whose latest film will have its World Premiere with RIFF.

- This year, RIFF will honor Rhode Island Director, **Michael Corrente** with the **Creative Vision Award** and will be screening a retrospective of his film work and an outdoor screening.

- **Approximately 282 individual film titles to be screened** at this year's film festival at multiple Venues in Providence, Newport, Kingston and Cranston. These include the Columbus Theatre Arts Center; the Cable Car Cinema, Feinstein IMAX Providence Place; Bank of America City Center; Showcase Cinemas Providence Place; the Castle Cinema; the Jane Pickens Theatre (Newport); the Courthouse Center for the Arts (Kingston); and the Black Box Theatre (Cranston).

• **"Stars Under the Stars"**

A series of nighttime outdoor screenings at the Bank of America City Center, Kennedy Plaza in downtown Providence; running late-June through early-September; Presented by RIFF & the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism, screened in collaboration with Radio Disney & Fresh Air Flicks; free and open to the public. 2006 "SUS" shows: *Lassie* (Charles Sturridge); *Federal Hill* (Michael Corrente) preceded by *Handmade Puppet Dreams* by filmmaker Heather Henson, who will be in attendance; *Not-So-Quiet Silents* featuring a live performance by the Alloy Orchestra classic comedy shorts with

Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin and audience participation with the creation of the musical score (to be presented by NBC10), and *The Best of RIFF 2006*, a two-hour program composed of repeat screenings of some of the top films from this year's festival. Sponsors for the 2006 "Stars Under the Stars" include Radio Disney, Providence Tourism Council, City of Providence, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, Rule Broadcast Systems, Sony, Amtrak, Clear Channel Communications (WHJJ, WHJY, B101 and Coast 93.3), the Feinstein IMAX Providence Place, Hotel Providence and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

- **"Breakfast with the Stars"**

Have a power breakfast with visiting filmmakers and their cast members. This special program offers intimate gatherings with industry professionals as they discuss behind-the-scenes aspects of filmmaking. Begins on Wednesday, August 9th and takes place each following consecutive morning through Saturday, August 11th. Starts daily at 9:30a.m. Price of admission includes a continental or hot breakfast. Series passes are available.

- **Opening Night Screening** will be a collection of short films representing different genres as a salute to RIFF's affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Ten short films from around the world including the East Coast Premiere of a new work from the Walt Disney Animation Studios; a short film from Academy Award nominee David Strathairn ("Good Night & Good Luck") plus new work from director Henry Selick ("James and the Giant Peach," and "Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas.")

- **Special guests scheduled to attend** this year's festival include actresses Cicely Tyson, Tiffany Thiessen, Tori Spelling, Mena Suvari, Alicia Witt actor David Strathairn, Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson, Jason Priestely, Randy Spelling, Cady Huffman, actress/singer Lisa Zane, composer Andrew Chuckerman, actor Adrian Grenier, John Popper, actress Carmen Electra, and young actor Preston Nyman, the star of the "Foster" who is flying in from the United Kingdom to attend the US Premiere of his film.

- **10th-Anniversary Retrospectives** featuring works by Stu Pollard, Eva Saks and Q. Allan Brocka. Special screenings of RIFF works nominated for Academy Awards. Eleven films having premiered at RIFF have been nominated for Oscars, and of those, three have won.

- **Heather Henson Presents: Handmade Puppet Dreams** Shorts films by puppet artists.

A touring festival of independent artists films exploring their handmade craft specifically for the camera. These films have allowed artists to build their vision, then breathe life into their dreams. In addition RIFF will screening a special selection of Jim Hensons' early works and Muppet Shorts introduced by his daughter, Heather Henson.

www.handmdepuppetdreams.com

All Muppet Programming courtesy of Muppet Holding Company, LLC

- **Producer's Circle Awards**, To commemorate its first decade, RIFF will present the inaugural **Producer's Circle Awards** to community and business leaders who have helped to nurture and build the event. The Awards program takes place on Thursday, July 20th at the Federal Reserve in Providence and will feature a preview of this year's Festival.

- **ScriptBiz™ Scriptwriting & Pitch Seminar** (August 7, 2006)

Since its conception three years ago, ScriptBiz™ 2006 has developed into a full-day workshop of interactive instruction for aspiring screenwriters desiring to hone and harness the craft. ScriptBiz™ is designed to guide not only the creative process of writing a successful screenplay, but also of the delicate art of promotion to filmmakers through effective networking and making a compelling and incisive pitch. Attendees of ScriptBiz™ receive a complete day of intensive training by instructors, filmmakers, directors, producers, actors, writers, and award-winning scriptwriters. This year, ScriptBiz™ is thematically focused around how to effectively build bridges between East- and West- American coasts, or more specifically, between New England and Hollywood.

- **"Between Takes Afternoon Industry Forums"** (consecutive workshops on August 9-12, 2006 at the Cable Car Cinema and the Providence Performing Arts Center.)

- **Expanded statewide screening locations:** Kingston (Courthouse Center for the Arts), Newport (Jane Pickens Theater, Redwood Library), Bristol, & Cranston (Black Box Theater).

- **Expanded Providence screening locations:** Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Cable Car Cinema, Castle Cinema, Showcase Cinemas Providence Place, Feinstein IMAX Providence Place, Bank of America City Center.

RIFF SIDEBAR PRESENTATIONS

- **KidsEye™ International Film Festival**, expanded to four morning screenings at Feinstein IMAX Providence Place

- **New England Student Film Festival**, all-day screenings, 8/12 at the Feinstein IMAX Providence Place

- **Providence Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**, throughout week of the fest with over 20 titles to be screened

- **Providence Film Festival**, providing a focus on local & regional filmmakers, 8/11-8/13

- **The World Panorama Festival of International Films**

- **Providence Jewish Film Festival**

- **The Jubilé Franco-Americain**, focusing on films from Canada and France.

- **RIFF Japanese Film Festival**, screening with the Black Ships Festival in Newport, 7/22-7/23 and special coll;ection during the main RIFF

- **The Next Generation Series**, not "Star Trek, but short student films from international film schools including Florida State University, Vancouver Film School, the University of Southern California, New York University and others.

OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST

- This year RIFF will be having its pre- and post-Opening Night parties at the **Columbus Theatre Arts Center**. We want to make people aware of all the positive changes that have taken place at the theatre over the past several years, which is the reason we created the "**Friends of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center**." (This functions through the non-profit arm of the Flickers Arts Collaborative, which produces RIFF, and has a restricted fund.) Since RIFF has been at the Columbus, the theater has blossomed into a neighborhood Arts center. RIFF has played an important role in its transformation and will continue to support the renovation of this beautiful and unique cultural jewel. To date, RIFF and "Friends of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center" have donated approximately \$50,000 for improvements at the theater. Renovations have included upgrading the sound and lighting system, providing and installing seating in the balcony, restoring the second floor dance studio, and putting rugs down in the upstairs lobby and light bulbs on the marquee.
- RIFF is the only festival in the country that is both a qualifying festival for the Grammy and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscar) Awards. In 2005, two films that premiered at RIFF, went on to be nominated for Oscars: John Canemaker's "The Moon and the Son: An Imagined Conversation" (Winner of Best Animated Short), and Runar Runarsson's "The Last Farm" (Short Film).
- Local musical entrepreneur, Al Gomes from Big Noise Productions, has created an 18-member panel of musicians, artists and industry insiders to select "Best Soundtrack" nominees from films screened at this year's RIFF.
- **KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp** will take place for its 8th season July 10-14 at the URI Kingston campus; 35 youngsters ages 8-15 will be participants.