

RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 3-9, 2009

DAY SEVEN: Sunday, August 9th

Closing Brunch and Official Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Biltmore Hotel

Garden Room at the Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorance Street

11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

\$20 for Guests, \$15 for filmmakers with pass

RIFF FILM SCREENINGS:

Cable Car Theatre (145 Seats)

204 South Main Street, Providence

12:00 p.m.

Lacrosse the Nations

Directed by Kyrié Cox

(2009, 15 min. Nicaragua/U S A)

Using lacrosse and the universal language of sport, Lacrosse the Nations brings unity, hope, and joy into the heart of the difficult and impoverished communities worldwide. Lacrosse the Nations is a collection of lacrosse enthusiasts bonded together by a common desire: to encourage, serve, and uphold kids through the sheer excitement of teaching and sharing in the game.

Garbage Dreams

Directed by Mai Iskander

(2009, 79 min. Egypt/U S A)

Garbage Dreams follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world's largest garbage village, on the outskirts of Cairo. It is the home to 60,000 Zaballeen, Arabic for 'garbage people.' Far ahead of any modern 'Green' initiatives, the Zaballeen survive by recycling 80 percent of the garbage they collect. When their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of its trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community.

2:30 p.m.

La Caminata

Directed by Jamie Meltzer

(2009, 15 min, U S A / Mexico)

A small town south of the Mexican border decides to take control of their own community and stem the tide of migration to the US. Through a 'journey' across the border and a poetic exploration of the town itself, this film details the effect of migration on Mexican communities, adding a fresh perspective to the ongoing immigration debate.

Art & Copy

Directed by Doug Pray

(2008, 86 min. French Guiana, U S A)

ART & COPY is about advertising and creativity, and its profound effects on modern culture. Like Dorothy pulling the curtain back on the Wizard of Oz himself, the film intimately reveals the relatively unknown personalities and stories of the most influential advertising creatives of our age: Lee Clow, George Lois, Mary Wells Lawrence, Hal Riney, Dan Wieden and David Kennedy, Phyllis K. Robinson, Jeff Goodby and Rich Silverstein, plus others, who have shaped our daily lives with their ideas for selling us cars, clothes, computers and presidential campaigns.

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Directed by Doug Pray ("Surfwise," "Scratch") the film interweaves stunning cinematography of TV satellites being launched and billboards being erected with some of the greatest ad campaigns of all time, resulting in an inspiring synthesis of art, commerce and human emotion.

Winner of RIFF's Roving Eye Film Festival Award for Best Documentary

4:30 p.m.

The Butler's In Love

Directed by David Arquette

(2008, 14 min. U S A)

THE BUTLER'S IN LOVE was directed by David Arquette and shot in state-of-the-art 3D technology. Based on a beautiful 'absinthe era' painting of the same name by renown artist Mark Stock, the film tells the story of people longing for true love. Starring Thomas Jane, Elizabeth Berkley, Richmond Arquette, David Arquette, and Jennifer Siebel.

Underwear

Directed by: Tomer Gendler

(2009, 15 min. U S A)

This no-dialogue film is a stylized look on communication, life, and love between two SENIOR seniors: both in their early 80's, both dealing with their last few good years

Smile 'Til It Hurts: The Up With People Story

Directed by Lee Storey

(2008, 81 min. U S A)

SMILE 'TIL IT HURTS: THE UP WITH PEOPLE STORY explores the clean-cut, smiledrenched singing phenomenon Up With People. The group was born in response to the counter-culture of the '60's, spun from the controversial maneuverings of a religious sect called Moral Re-Armament, backed by millions of corporate dollars, and launched around the globe to exemplify conservative American values.

Embraced by Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush; by corporations like Exxon, GM, Coors, Coca Cola, Halliburton and Searle; and by global leaders such as Queen Noor of Jordan, King Juan Carlos of Spain, and Pope John Paul II, Up With People was determined to change the world one squeaky clean song at a time -- but its impossibly cheery facade concealed a much more complicated reality for its members.

Told by former Uppies whose compelling stories take us on an intimate journey, the film reveals what happens when ideology, money, and groupthink converge to co-opt youthful idealism. A cautionary tale spanning decades, SMILE 'TIL IT HURTS: THE UP WITH PEOPLE STORY i

7:15 p.m.

ISSIZ ADAM (ALONE)

Directed by Cagan Irmak

(2008, 113 min, Turkey)

Cast: Cemal Hunal

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Thirty-something ALPER is a talented chef who runs his own restaurant. He may have achieved success in business, but the same cannot be said of his personal life. While caught in the triangle of his gastronomic creations, one-night stands and escort girls, he suddenly finds his life take a new turn when he walks into a second-hand bookshop in the backstreets of Beyoglu to buy an old record he has been looking for.

ADA is an attractive, unassuming and relatively stable woman in her late 20s who designs and makes fancy dress costumes for kids. One day, while wandering around Beyoglu in search of a second-hand book, she walks into the same shop as Alper. A womaniser by nature, Alper is impressed by Ada's good looks and sets off in pursuit. As a pretext for introducing himself, he tracks down the book Ada was looking for, buys it and then presents it to her.

As it turns out, this book is the beginning of a passionate affair between the two. But the harder Alper tries to create space for Ada in his existing life, the more restricted, the more claustrophobic he starts to feel. Ada, however, is blissfully unaware of the poison in Alper's blood and delights on being in love.

Ada and Alper live out their romance as far as they are able and in the measure to which life allows them.

9:30 p.m.

Fifty Dead Men Walking

Directed by Kari Skogland

(2008, 117 min. United Kingdom)

Cast: Sir Ben Kingsley, Jim Sturgess, Rose McGowan, Nathalie Press and Kevin Zegers.

Inspired by Martin McGartland's incredible autobiography, *Fifty Dead Men Walking* is the stunning new action thriller by Kari Skogland about a secret agent working undercover for British security services in Northern Ireland in the last eighties. Over the course of four years, until his betrayal and subsequent discovery, it was estimated that McGartland was responsible for saving the lives of up to fifty men.

Columbus Theatre Arts Center

270 Broadway, Providence

• **Cinematheque** (Upstairs – 200 Seats):

10:00 a.m.

Castle on High: An Undergrad Election Drama

Directed by Michael Morgenstern

(2009, 46 min. Czech Republic, U S A)

Zac Townsend knows the Undergraduate Council of Students' constitution by heart. John Gillis has a hard time thinking of anything he's really done in two years on UCS. And Arthur Kim has never been to a meeting - he's too busy playing with his band! Watch as the three candidates, cheered on by a crazy crew of characters, fight for the hearts and minds of a student body that just doesn't care. In the race to the top, anything is fair game!

Abandon All Hope

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Directed by: Boris Acosta

(2009, 25 min. U S A)

"Abandon All Hope" is a short documentary that pays homage to Dante Alighieri, and Gustave Dore, one of the best artists of all time, who illustrated the entire Divine Comedy circa 150 years ago in France. The film is a narrative journey through the worst of the afterlife, Inferno, from Dante's own hand. It is a chronological descent to the deepest of Hell, circle by circle to the exit into Purgatory. Narrated by Jeff Conaway.

1:00 p.m.

Echo

Directed by Magnus von Horn

(2009, 15 min. Poland)

Two boys have murdered a young girl. Through crime reconstruction and meeting the family of the victim they now have to relive the brutal crime they committed and confront the feelings they felt and still feel.

Insurgency of Ambition

Directed by Anya Belkina

(2009, 7 min. U S A)

The illusion of success lures a man to the very threshold of glory only to unsheathe its true, frightening nature as he gets within reach.

Palais des Chaussures

Directed by Michelle Leddon

(2009, 15 min. France)

Jennifer, a thirty-something American woman living in Paris, loves two things: Vincent, a younger French man and beautiful shoes. Vincent is afraid of two things: Women and his feelings. This mismatched pair spends one last day together in Paris where they have one last chance to reach out for one another.

Beyond Greenaway: The Legacy

Directed by Sue Gilbert

(2009, 67 min. U S A)

North American Premiere

Wealth and values through three generations. Sue Gilbert returns to explore the wealth and lifestyle issues first portrayed through the eyes of her elderly parents in the film 'Greenaway' (1982). In this film, she compares her parents' viewpoints to those of their children and adult grandchildren over a range of topics, including seldom discussed issues of deserving, hiding, and envy. We come to care for the film's subjects as people sharing their struggles, regardless of circumstance.

3:15 p.m.

Schizofredric

Directed by Andy Poyiadgi

(2009, 17 min. United Kingdom)

Fredric has lost the fire in his belly and wants it back. After signing up for an unorthodox self-improvement program, Fredric is forced to watch his life play out, while a new improved version of himself walks in his shoes.

Rocaterrania

Directed by Brett Ingram

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(2008, 73 min. U S A)

Renaldo Kuhler is the only son of Otto Kuhler, a German immigrant who served under Kaiser Wilhelm in World War I before emigrating to America with seven dollars in his pocket. Renaldo grew up in the immense shadow of his father (who became a famous American industrial designer and acclaimed landscape painter) and struggled to find his own identity as an artist.

Like many Germans, Otto Kuhler romanticized the American West and the freedom it symbolized. When Otto fulfilled a lifelong dream by moving his family from upstate New York to a remote Colorado cattle ranch in 1948, teenaged Renaldo found the isolation unbearable and escaped to the private fantasy world of his notebooks. What began as the illustrated history of an imaginary country called "Rocaterrania" became Renaldo's lifelong obsession – secretly documenting the satirically coded story of his own life.

Rocaterrania is a tiny nation of eastern European immigrants who purchased a tract of land along the Canadian border - just north of the Adirondack Mountains in New York - after growing restless with America's notions of "democracy." Over the next six decades, Rocaterrania saw two revolutions and the rise and fall of a succession of czars, dictators, and presidents among a cast of characters vaguely resembling Russian historical figures. But, as the film reveals, each change in government reflects a deeper meaning for Renaldo, an outsider who struggled to escape an emotionally abusive family and searched for freedom within a real nation threatened by forces of conformity.

5:20 p.m.

Jitensha

Directed by Dean Yamada

(2009, 21 min. Japan)

a bicycle dismantled... a life retrieved.

Drawing on Fate - Artist: Toshio Kajiyama

Directed by Noriaki Saito

(2009, 68 min. Japan)

Prolific artist Toshio Kajiyama has illustrated picture books and picture scrolls, painted porcelain and glass, and made woodblock prints. Kajiyama will paint an abstract ink piece covering this canvas at the zen temple of Erinji in Wadayama, northern Hyogo Prefecture, all the while conscious of both heaven and earth.

This documentary captures on camera the space and time that fused together Japanese culture and Kajiyama's sensibility. Various encounters led to this painting—encounters with people, with the canvas and with his own inner breath.

• **Andrews Theatre** (Downstairs – 815 Seats):

1:00 p.m.

Le Rescapé de l'Hippocampe

Directed by Julien Lecat

(2009, 12 min. France)

Diane, a hardened woman, manages a brothel in the 2030s. Frank Richard, a smuggler and old friend, drowns his sorrows in alcohol, trying to escape the memory of his dead brother. He convinces Diane to enter his brain in order to

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erase this memory. She will make astonishing discoveries...

Féileacán (Butterfly)

Directed by Cecilia McAllister

(2008, 13 min. Ireland)

A daughter and her mother, a relationship in freefall. A fair day, a fun day, a day that doesn't go as planned.

Assume Nothing

Directed by Kirsty MacDonald

(2009, 82 min. New Zealand)

Many of us assume that there are only two genders and that being female or male follows from the sex of our biological bodies. Focusing on the art, photography and performances of four 'alternative' gender artists of Maori, Samoan-Japanese, and Pakeha descent, Assume Nothing poses the questions: 'What if 'male' and 'female' are not the only options? How do other genders express themselves through art?' Candid, playful and provocative, Assume Nothing travels from Wellington's Red Rocks to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to explore the potent creative world that flourishes between and beyond genders.

3:00 p.m.

Ha'agam (The Lake)

Directed by Boaz Lavie

(2008, 25 min. Israel)

Two brothers leave the city behind, for a journey of salvation from day-job life.

HOME IS WHERE YOU FIND IT

Directed by Alcides Soares

(2009, 34 min. U S A)

Alcides Soares is a sixteen-year-old AIDS orphan, one of half a million living in Mozambique today. An American television writer (Neal Baer) and movie director (Chris Zalla) gave Alcides a movie camera and taught him how to shoot. The result is a moving chronicle directed by Alcides himself. His journey to find a family and make a new life in a country that has been ravaged by AIDS, is a story repeated millions of times everyday throughout Africa. As Alcides's story unfolds, we meet the orphans of Reencontro, an organization in Moputo that provides these children with bare sustenance. The Reencontro orphans were also taught photography by a group of American and Mozambiquan photographers and provided with still cameras so they could tell their own stories about the impact of AIDS on their lives. Their pictures, sometimes tragic, often hopeful and always honest, appear throughout 'The House Is Small but the Welcome Is Big' as a reminder that these children's voices must be heard. In telling his story, Alcides finds an elderly woman to live with and, unexpectedly, is reunited with his younger brother whom he hasn't seen in ten years. AIDS tears families apart, but the resilience of children like Alcides can make new families out of tragedy.

NoBody's Perfect

Director by Niko von Glasow

(2008 58 min, Germany)

Eleven people are preparing to pose naked for a book of photos. They were born disabled, like the director himself, due to the disastrous side-effects of

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Thalidomide. These fascinating characters are working in areas as politics, the media, sport, astrophysics or acting and have learned to live with their disability to an impressive level of "normality". Filmed with a darkly humorous touch and no deference to political correctness.

6:00 p.m.

CLOSING NIGHT SCREENING AND RECEPTION

Hosted by the **Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation**

Musical Guest: **Becky Chace** and **Brian Minisce**

\$25 for Guests, *Free for filmmakers with pass*

The film program:

HIP, HOT AND SHORT: SALUTING THE ART OF THE SHORT FILM

The Impact of Your Choice: Breast Health Awareness-When Is Too Young!

Directed by Deborah A. Hoch

Megastar Productions

(2009, 25 min. U S A)

A way to let women know of the quality care, the importance of early detection and programs that are available to them and to educate and promote the Breast Health movement. Breast Cancer Survivors stories focusing on women 25-85+ years of age; for all women of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

Celestial Avenue

Directed by Cameron Cairnes and Colin Cairnes

(2009, 19 min. Australia)

Kath has been looking for love in all the wrong places. Then, she finds herself in Chinatown. In the middle of a less than successful blind date, she overhears the soulful Cantonese singing of kitchen-hand, Ah Gong. Kath is intrigued. But is there more to Ah Gong than meets the eye? "Celestial Avenue" is an offbeat tale - part karaoke video, part cross-cultural comedy - about love, music and personal reinvention.

Léger Problème (Little inconvenience)

Directed by Hélène Florent

(2009, 9 min. Canada)

The life of an ordinary man seems to be very different on a day that seemed like every other day.

Diplomacy

Directed by Jon Goldman

(2009, 9 min. U S A)

Relations between the United States and Iran take an unexpected turn when two senior diplomats and their interpreters meet for a closed-door session.

I Can Speak Swedish

Directed by Charlene Loh

(2009, 17 min. Australia)

Jane buys a used car, in which she finds items that provide her with the chance to communicate with a world she once feared. Hope is the same in any language.

The Enchanted Island

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Directed by Noel Kearns

(2009, 20 min. Ireland)

Off the south-west coast of Ireland lies a small sheltered island with a mysterious ancient garden on it. People say it is a magical place and stories of mermaids living in the surrounding waters have often been told. No one lives on the island except for a solitary gardener Brian. And every night he is left alone on this small enchanted island. Or is he?

An Unfinished Romance

Directed by Alison Heather

(2009, 10 min. Australia)

A gentle romantic comedy looking at the assumptions we make about other people, which make or break our sense of enchantment, the essence of romance.

RISD Museum (250 Seats)

224 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903

401.454.6500

2:00 p.m. **FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT: INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER, JAKE MAHAFFY**

PROGRAM 2:

"Wellness" trailer - 3 min

A trailer for the feature film Wellness shown in Program I of the RIFF Filmmaker Spotlight.

"Gravity" - 3 min

A humorous short from the Motion Studies series depicting a test of earth's pull on foreign bodies in high scientific fashion. Premiered at Sundance 2005.

"Heat" - 3 min

A humorous short from the Motion Studies series depicting a farmer and a resuscitation doll.

"Egypt Hollow" - 20 min

Completed as a senior thesis film at RISD, this film depicts a young boy haunted on his family farm by the mysterious Burn Barrel Man.

"War" - 84 min

(2004, 70 min. U S A)

NEAR THE BEGINNING OF JAKE MAHAFFY'S B&W POSTAPOCALYPSE EPIC WAR, AN OFFSCREEN VOICE MURMURS, "This is the world after the end of the world." The quote refers to the film's camera trail of poverty and economic devastation, images suggesting a ruined American heartland as shot by Andrei Tarkovsky or Walker Evans. But the quote could just easily apply to Mahaffy's own brand of independent filmmaking. Over the course of five years, Mahaffy shot War with a hand-cranked silent camera and without a crew. "I started off with a script and a very clear idea of what I wanted to do," he explains. "But I didn't have the money to shoot dialogue. So rather than stop I decided to shoot everything except the script. I shot hours and hours of the lives of the characters not in the script. I would just roll film and hope that it would come together in the end."

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The result is a strange, ghostly depiction of lonely characters adrift in a rural wasteland set to a soundtrack of radio broadcasts and pensive narration. War played the Sundance Frontier section in 2004, and since then Mahaffy has continued to mine his singular style, returning to the festival this year with a short, Motion Studies #3: Gravity, part of a series of films "mocking the religion of science by artistically reinterpreting various scientific data."

University of Rhode Island, Feinstein Providence Campus

80 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903

12:00 p.m.

RIFF LOCAL FILMMAKER OPEN CALL

Local filmmakers are encouraged to bring in their work to share; pre-registration is required for this "Open Screen" at RIFF.

2:00 p.m.

Nuestros Desaparecidos / Our Disappeared

Directed by Juan Mandelbaum

(2008, 99m, Argentina, U S A)

"Our Disappeared"/"Nuestros Desaparecidos" is director Juan Mandelbaum's personal search for the souls of friends and loved ones who were caught in the vise of the military and "disappeared" in his native Argentina during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship.

After learning that Patricia, a long lost girlfriend, is among the "desaparecidos" Mandelbaum returns to Argentina to find out what happened to her and others he knew who mysteriously vanished. As he revisits the dreams they shared for a revolution that would transform Argentina he also grieves the tragic losses and examines his own choices.

Through dramatic stories told by parents, siblings, friends and children of the disappeared, Mandelbaum shows what happens when brutal regimes attack the fabric of a country with great impunity, causing enormous suffering that lasts for generations. Using extraordinary archival footage, Mandelbaum brings the energy and tension of the time and place to life.