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2013 RIIFF OPENING NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE VETS

Screening of top short films and gala celebration to kick off 17th annual RIIFF

Providence, RI – July 29, 2013 – Join **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** for its 17th annual Opening Night screening and celebration on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at **The Vets** (formerly VMA Arts & Cultural Center).

RIIFF's Opening Night screening is a popular annual event and the official kickoff for the 2013 Festival. Opening Night showcases some of the Festival's very best short film submissions from around the world. As part of its long tradition, Flickers will celebrate the art of the short film, representing an array of genres that salute RIIFF's unique status: out of more than 7,000 film festivals worldwide, the Rhode Island International Film Festival is one of only 75 qualifying Festivals for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—the Oscars. This year's selection promises to engage, entertain, and possibly discover the next Academy Award nominees.

At the February 2013 Academy Awards, three of the short film nominees shared the distinction of having premiered at the Opening Night of RIIFF 2012: "**ASAD**," directed by Bryan Buckley and produced by Mino Jarjoura (Hungry Man); "**Buzkashi Boys**," directed by Sam French and produced by Ariel Nasr (Afghan Film Project); and "**Henry**," directed and produced by Yan England.

The cinematic experience during this year's Opening Night will include the following films (not necessarily screening in this order):

- "**Sundae**" (Canada, directed by Joseph Procopio, *World Premiere*);
- "**Drone Strike**" (UK, directed by Chris Richmond, *World Premiere*);
- "**Ceramic Tango**" (Canada/Quebec, directed by Patricia Chica, *U.S. Premiere*);
- "**Anniversario**" (Argentina, directed by Jeffrey Dechause, *World Premiere*);
- "**Astarsaga (Love Story)**" (Iceland, directed by Asa Hjorleifsdottir);
- "**Dotty**" (New Zealand, directed by Mick Andrews & Brett O'Gorman);
- "**The Pamplemousse**" (Canada/Quebec, directed by Jonathan Watton);
- "**The Parachutist**" (UK, directed by Tom Tagholm);
- "**Chef de Meute (Herd Leader)**" (Canada/Quebec, directed by Chloe Robichaud).

Flickers is thrilled about its diverse lineup of films and directors for this year's Opening Night—including many premiering at RIIFF. Joseph Procopio, director of "**Sundae**," has been a friend of the Festival since he premiered his first film at RIIFF at age nine. Now 19, the Toronto native holds more than 50 awards from international festivals and is preparing to move on to feature films. At just 18 years old, Procopio worked with a professional crew of 40 to put together his love story, "**Sundae**," which will have its world premiere at Opening Night on Aug. 6.

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Canada has provided RIFF with a host of great films and directors this year in addition to Procopio, including filmmaker Patricia Chica, whose psychological thriller, "Ceramic Tango," will have its U.S. premiere at RIFF's Opening Night. From the U.K., Chris Richmond has worked in the film/production industry for years, but only recently took on the role of drama director and screenwriter for "Drone Strike," which depicts a day in the life of a drone pilot and will have its world premiere at RIFF. Argentinian film "Anniversario," directed by Jeffery Dechausse, combines both tragedy and romance in this story about a 45th anniversary that takes an unexpected turn.

Continuing its reach across the globe, RIFF draws Asa Hjorleifsdottir's "Astarsaga (Love Story),"—a tale of love, madness and mystery—from Iceland, and Mick Andrews and Brett O'Gorman bring their drama/comedy, "Dotty," about an elderly woman's struggle with technology, all the way from New Zealand. Jonathan Watton's lovely comedy, "The Pamplemousse," continues the Canada/Quebec representation, as does Chloe Robichaud's unique and inspiring dark comedy, "Chef de Meute (Herd Leader)." Finally, with "The Parachutist," U.K. filmmaker Tom Tagholm shares the quirky adventure of a young boy after an unexpected visitor from another time lands in his back yard. These filmmakers—along with dozens of others whose films will be screened throughout the week—will join together on Opening Night to celebrate their work and kick off a week of spectacular cinema.

Following the screenings, audience members are invited to join filmmakers at the post-screening gala at The Vets. Tickets to the screening are \$15; tickets to screening & gala are \$50. Tickets are available online: <http://www.film-festival.org/ticketspasses.php> or at the door. Box Office opens at 5:00 p.m.

Sponsors for the 2013 Festival include: *The Providence Journal Charitable Foundation; ABC6; Visit Baltimore; Eurochannel; Edge Media; CW28; The Rhode Island Foundation; Equity Action; RISD Museum; Unibroue; Rhode Island Film & Television Office; The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA); The Providence Phoenix; Sony; IMDB.com; Rhode Island PBS; Rule Boston Camera; Délégation du Québec à Boston; Tourism Québec; PMA Industries; Cox Media; Amtrak; The Vets; The Providence Tourism Council; University of Rhode Island (URI); The Harrington School of Communications at URI; Roger Williams University; Enterprise; Linchpin Design; Renaissance Providence Hotel; ZipCar; The City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism; The Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau; and The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.*

THE FLICKERS' BACKSTORY & MISSION:

The mission of **Flickers, the Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative**, now in its **31st year**, has been to serve as a creative partner in the arts by uniting various media and arts disciplines that nurture the artistic process and support a vital part of our community. This includes multi-disciplinary art presentations; artistic and cultural activities; performance festivals; video and television productions; audio recordings and broadcasts; educational outreach programs; and the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF)**.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF)**, 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 brings together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers each year. 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. RIFF is one of 75 film festivals worldwide—and the only in New England—to have this distinction. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

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