

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HORSE RIDING CHAMPION WILL REVEAL PAST AS HIGH-STAKES DRUG DEALER DURING FILM PREMIERE IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Personal appearance at screening is his first time going public

(Providence, RI) Trip Harting was a rich kid with a shot at the Olympics. He has spent his entire life as one of the most well known riders in the glamorous world of horses. What no one knows is that when he took off his riding helmet and put away his boots he went to his second job: as one of the largest Crystal-Meth dealers in Washington DC. Harting has kept his two lives separate to this day. His dealing, arrest and the likelihood of life imprisonment unfolded in secret as he rode before crowds and as he judged and taught riders. But now he is going public.

[Trip to Hell and Back](#), a film documenting his journey by award winning filmmaker [Stu Maddux](#), will have its world premiere Thursday August 7th, 7:15 pm, at Columbus Theatre Arts Center as part of [The Rhode Island International Film Festival](#). Along with the film's director, Harting will answer questions after the screening - [going public with his hidden life for the first time](#).

"This film has been the hardest thing I've done in my 5 years of recovery," says Harting from his home in Echo Park, California. "But I think my mistakes have a chance to save someone else's life. if it helps just one other person then the personal risk I'm taking is absolutely worth it. " **Harting, a member of the Olympic Pentathlon Team, was convicted in 2005 of selling more than of six-thousand doses of high grade crystal methamphetamine and faced life in prison.**

The film's director agrees that there is a big risk, "He's one of the most well known riders in the world revealing his other life the moment our documentary premieres in Rhode Island," says Maddux. "It's hard to tell how harshly that prestigious horse world will judge him. But it's pretty clear from documenting Trip that his secrets were killing him as much as the drug was. He went through an amazing spiritual transformation that we are able to share on film."

[The Rhode Island International Film Festival](#) is the largest public film festival in New England and an Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences qualifying event. During its 25th year, 300 films will be shown from around the world.

PREMIERE DATE: Thursday August 7th, 2008

TIME: 7:15 pm

LOCATION: Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Cinematheque, 270 Broadway, Providence, RI

TICKETS: <http://riiff2008.withoutabox.com/>

LINKS:

<http://triptohellandback.com>

[Trailer](#)

[Director Stu Maddux](#)