

NEWS RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING NIGHT FESTIVITIES

9th Annual Event Begins August 9, 2005

With Showcase of Short Films and Dazzling Galas

PROVIDENCE, RI (July 29, 2005): **The Rhode Island Film Festival** begins its ninth year at 7PM, Tuesday, August 9th, in Providence at the Columbus Theatre (270 Broadway) with a focus on the art of short films. Selected from thousands of submissions from throughout the world, the two-hour program of local, national and international shorts represents an eclectic array of genres. The Festival's traditional opening-night focus on shorts promises to surpass the excitement of last year's sold-out event.

Attending the red-carpet event will be local and national dignitaries and celebrities, including Rhode Island's Country-music recording artist Billy Gilman, the subject of a documentary that evening about the making of a music video; the video of the song "Hey Little Suzie" also enjoys its World Premiere at the event. Mr. Gilman, ending a two-year hiatus from performing, will greet fans and sign CDs following the screening. Utah Senator Oren Hatch, who has written songs for Mr. Gilman, is expected to accompany the singer to the opening-night festivities.

Along with Mr. Gilman, special guests expected at this year's Opening Night include Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri, Providence Mayor David M. Cicilline, US Senator Jack Reed and this year's Festival Humanitarian Award winner actor Danny Trejo, actor Richard Jenkins (*Six Feet Under*), writer Ernest Thompson (*On Golden Pond*), cast members of *The Brotherhood*, the Showtime series now shooting in Providence and many others.

The opening-night screening is bracketed by a pair of Gala Events at Villa Toscana on Providence's Federal Hill:

At 9:30PM, the **RIIFF Opening Night Gala Party** immediately follows the Screening. Audience members are invited to join Festival VIPs at the Villa Toscana (114 Spruce Street) for a festive evening of mingling, music and dining. Tickets to the party can be purchased for \$15 that evening or in advance. A delicious sampling of the "Flavors of Federal Hill" will be provided by the Federal Hill Merchants Association and presented by the Hotel Dolce Villa, Viola's, Mediterraneo and Jessie's Dessert Bar. Newport Storm will provide the beer. Dress for the event is festive-casual.

Prior to the screening, The Hotel Dolce Villa and The Federal Hill Merchants Association host a special intimate **Pre-Festival Reception** for dignitaries, celebrities, filmmakers, sponsors, press, VIP ticket holders and other special guests. Supporters of the Festival are able to join other VIPs at this event with a contribution at \$100.

THE OPENING NIGHT PROGRAM

The Butcher and The Housewife, 2005, USA *New England Premiere*

Producer/Director: Ishai Setton

Runtime: 18 minutes

The story of an unhappy woman married to a vegetarian and the butcher who appreciates her charms. Features a talented cast that includes shoppers and supermarket baggers dancing to the music of Scorpion.

Wow and Flutter, 2004, USA

Director: Gary Lundgren

Producer: Anne Lundgren

Runtime: 18 minutes

While fourteen-year-old David mixes a tape for his first crush, his parents grow concerned about the boy's erratic behavior.

Viaje a Marte (Journey to Mars), 2003, Argentina *East Coast Premiere*

In the 1960s, 5-year-old Antonio's grandfather promises to fulfill the boy's wish to travel to Mars by taking him to the red planet in his tow-truck.

9:30, 2005 USA/Singapore

Director: Mun Chee Yong

Producer: Ryan Sturz/Brett Heneberg

Runtime: 13 min.

Chan Kin Fai has flown 14092.2 km from Singapore to Los Angeles to forget the person he loves. So why does he call his object of affection everyday at 9:30 Singapore time?

Hibernation, 2005 UK *World Premiere*

Director: John Williams

Producer: Andy Gordon

Runtime: 15 min.

In 1985, in a secret tree house, two children disguised in animal costumes experiment to revive a bee.

Cherie, 2005 UK *World Premiere*

Director: Jason Wenn

Runtime: 15 min.

Cherie aspires to be a famous painter in the big city but has to make-do as a waitress. As hope fails, her muse visits her unexpectedly.

Billy Gilman: Making of the Videos, 2005 USA *World Premiere*

Director: Alec Asten

Producer: Al Gomes/Cynthia Robergo

Runtime: 18 min.,

A documentary short that explores where the career of the multi-platinum recording star has been and where, as the singer reaches maturity, it's headed. Featuring the world premiere of his latest video "Hey Little Suzie."

Triumph des Nichtschwimmers (Swimming Lessons), 2005 Germany *World Premiere*

Director: Martin Dolejs

Producer: Frank Becher/Sandra Barger

Runtime: 7 min.

In the summer of 1979, ten-year old Milosch realizes that to win the heart of his dream girl he must learn to swim!

This year RIFF, New England's largest film festival, will feature 221 films from across the United States and over 61 countries in a truly statewide celebration of film. There will be 80 World and US Premieres, setting a new RIFF record. Each year the Festival attracts more than 20,000 filmmakers, audience members, celebrities and members of the industry. In Providence screenings will be held throughout the week at the Columbus Theatre Arts Center, the Cable Car Cinema and Providence Chamber of Commerce Theatre. In other parts of the state films will be shown at venues in Newport, Westerly, Kingston and Cranston. RIFF is the only festival in the US that can boast of being truly statewide.

RIFF Honorary Co-chairs are Governor Donald Carcieri, Providence Mayor David M. Cicilline and US Senator Jack Reed. RIFF is sponsored in part by SONY, Rule Broadcasting, Clear Channel Communications, the Goethe Institut-Boston, Delta Airlines, Amtrak, RISCA, NBC10, the City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Phoenix, Coca Cola, the Federal Hill Gazette, Motif, the Feinstein IMAX, Federal Hill Merchants Association, Newport Storm, Dolce Villa Hotel, Hotel Viking, Damron and Jenn Lee Designs and Amoeba Graphics.

Advance Ticket sales for screenings and special events will be available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org) and www.ARTTixRI.com. Student, group and senior discounts are available in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445, toll free at 866-RFF-TIXA or log onto www.RIFFFilmFest.org.

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The Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for artistic interaction among independent filmmakers, directors,

producers, distributors, backers and the filmgoing community. The Flickers Arts Collaborative, an organization with 24 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public produces the RIIF. For more information call or write RIIF at PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840; e-mail info@film-festival.org. Web: www.RIFilmFest.org.