



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2009 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

MEDIA RELEASE

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
Contact: Adam M.K. Short, Producing Director
adams@film-festival.org • 401.861-4445

2009 ROVING EYE FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (May 29, 2009)– After extensive deliberation and ballot tabulation, festival judges have announced the top award winners for the **2009 Roving Eye Documentary Film Festival**, a sidebar of the **Rhode Island International Film Festival**. The three-day event took place from April 26–28th and was presented in collaboration with **Roger Williams University**. The theme of this year's festival was "*Bridging the World Through Film.*"

The categories this year were the *Roger Williams University Grand Prize for Documentary Film* (an adjudicated award); the *Audience Choice Award*, and the *Emerging Eye Directorial Discovery Award*.

The **2009 Roving Eye Film Festival** covered such themes as torture and rendition's place in a democratic society; human rights in Africa; the efficacy of the death penalty; escaping the web of poverty in the inner city through education outreach; and the impact of advertising on our culture. Many of the filmmakers were in attendance.

"The idea behind this Festival came out of a desire to provide another platform to showcase the work of independent filmmakers. Each year, RIIFF receives over 3,000 entries and - while the Festival does screen more films than any other festival in New England - many excellent films are not screened due to time and scheduling constraints. This was something we wanted to correct," stated Adam Short, Roving Eye creator and Producing Director of the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

"We've received films from all over the world, and they address many different subjects. Our goal is make sure everyone in our community has a chance to enjoy the documentary film experience," commented Mr. Short.

Through the **Rhode Island International Film Festival's** partnership with the **Guangzhou International Documentary Film Festival (GZ DOC)** – China's largest documentary festival– the top RIIFF documentaries have an opportunity to screen at the Chinese film festival and vice versa. Additionally, RIIFF docs have been chosen by GZDOC to participate in its **Sapphire Moving Image Salon**, a traveling film series for trade, cultural, and educational organizations.

The **2009 Roving Eye Film Festival** was sponsored by *the Roger Williams University Office of the President; the Office of the Provost; the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences; and the RWU Department of Communications.*

THIS YEAR'S ROVING EYE AWARD WINNERS ARE:

- ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY DOCUMENTARY GRAND PRIZE:
 "Art & Copy" Doug Pray, Director, USA.
- AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD:
 "The Last Word," Jesse Quackenbush, Director, USA..
- EMERGING EYE DIRECTORIAL DISCOVERY AWARD:
 "Transcending: The Wat Misaka Story" Bruce Alan Johnson and Christine Toy Johnson,
 Directors, USA

The Roving Eye Film Festival will return in the Spring of 2010 with a new roster of work from emerging film artists. Details will be announced during the annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival**, August 4-9th. For more information please visit the RIIFF web site at www.RIFilmFest.org

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIIFF incorporates gala celebrations, premiere screenings, VIP guests, industry seminars, educational programs, and award ceremonies into a weeklong extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 200 films. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. This year's Festival takes place August 4-9, 2009.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival™** and its programs such as the **Roving Eye Film Festival™**, have been sponsored in part by grants and underwriting from *the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the Flickers Arts Collaborative, and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities*; event partners include *The US-China Institute at Bryant University, the Guangzhou Documentary Film Festival, Roger Williams University, the Providence Public Library, the Westerly Public Library, the Clark Memorial Library, and the Warwick Museum of Art*; corporate support from *WJAR TV 10, HB Communications, Clear Channel Communications, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, and private contributions*.

For more information, write **RIIFF**, PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445, e-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org.

###