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Photos Available Upon Request:

Three Films that Premiered at the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival Earn Oscar® Nominations

Festival Opening Night films given Oscar® nod: "Asad," "Buzkashi Boys" and "Henry"

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (January 10, 2013) – It's official! With the announcement of the nominations for the 85th Annual Academy Awards, three (3) short films from the **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) have received nominations. Last year, a record five films affiliated with the Festival received nominations with two going on to win the coveted Oscar®: "The Shore" directed by Terry and Oorlagh George; and "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore," directed by William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg.

"Rhode Island is definitely an important Oscar® incubator. Not only are three of the films that premiered at the Festival are being honored this year with nominations, but Wes Anderson's 'Moonrise Kingdom,' which was shot entirely in the State of Rhode Island, has been nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Best Original Screenplay. And, Rhode Islander Jennifer Lee's work as a writer is being recognized with the nomination of 'Wreck it Ralph,' for Best Animated Feature." said George T. Marshall, Executive Director/CEO.

"The reputation of the Festival among filmmakers is that of a portal for discovery. Since 1999, we have seen 29 films screened at the Festival go on to receive Oscar® nominations and most of the directors were present for the screenings, so they discovered our state as we discovered their work" he noted. "Add to that the hard work of the RI Film and Television Office which has created and fostered a film arts and industry friendly environment, and you have the results we are seeing this year!"

RIIFF is an official qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. It is the only festival in New England with this accolade. A list of films that have been nominated and won Academy Awards affiliated with the Festival is attached along with a list of Film Festivals worldwide that are nominating events for the Academy.

THE FILMS NOMINATED:

• **Asad**

D. Bryan Buckley and Mino Jarjoura

Set in a war torn fishing village in Somalia, an all Somali, refugee cast brings to life this coming of age fable of a Somali boy who is faced with falling into the pirate life, or rising above to choose the path of an honest fishing man.

This was a Festival Opening Night Premiere and our Official Nomination to the Academy.
http://riff.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/asad_bryanbuckley_riff2012

• **Buzkashi Boys** (Pesaran-e-Buzkashi)

D. Sam French and Ariel Nasr

Buzkashi Boys tells the compelling coming of age story of two best friends, a charismatic street urchin and a defiant blacksmith's son, who struggle to realize their dreams as they make their way to manhood in one of the most war-torn countries on Earth. Shot on location in Kabul city by an alliance of Afghan and international film makers, Buzkashi Boys is a heart-rending look at the life that continues beyond the headlines of war in Afghanistan.

This was a Festival Opening Night Premiere.

http://riff.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/pesaranebuzkashi_samfrench_riff2012

• **Henry**

D. Yan England • Canada

Henry, a great concert pianist, has his life thrown in turmoil the day the love of his life, Maria, disappears mysteriously. He'll then discover the inevitable verdict of life.

This was a Festival Opening Night Premiere in 2011

http://riff.festivalgenius.com/2011/films/henry_yanengland_riff2011

The Festival will celebrate these nominations and more on Oscar Night®, February 24th when it hosts the **Oscar® Experience: Providence**. This annual party will be held at the **The Vets**, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence. The Honorary Chairs for the event are **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director/RI Film & Television Office and **Michael Drywa, Esq.** RIFF Advisory Board President.

Oscar® Experience: Providence is the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences'** grassroots program that enables not-for-profit charities to host glamorous parties while raising the funds necessary to continue giving back to the community. In 2013, the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) has again been selected to host Rhode Island's only officially sanctioned party, one of only 47 official parties throughout the country sanctioned by the Academy.

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) 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 brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top-12 festivals in the United States, **RIIFF** is one of 75 festivals worldwide that is a qualifying festival for the **Academy Awards** through its partnership with the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences**.

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running Aug. 6-11, 2013 at The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit www.RIFilmFest.org or call **401.861.4445**.

For more on this year's nominations, go to this link:

<http://oscar.go.com/nominees>

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