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FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH SEASON WITH OVER 270 FILMS OPENING NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE VETS

Awards, Film Screenings and Gala Party to Kick-Off 20th Annual Festival

Written by: Shawn Quirk & Francis Ferdinand

ABSTRACT/CALENDAR LISTING:

On August 9, 2016, Flickers kicks-off its 20th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) in Providence, RI. Out of the 7,000-plus film festivals worldwide, RIFF is widely recognized as a credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. 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 10 Festivals in the United States, RIFF is also a qualifying festival for the **Narrative, Documentary and Animation Short Film Academy Awards** through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. It was also recently named a **BAFTA** (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and **Canadian Screen Awards** (Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television)-qualifying Festival. There are only **6 film festivals worldwide** that share this distinction. RIFF is truly a place where the stars align! Aside from film screenings, the Flickers team has organized a number of events to encourage filmmakers and festival attendees to widen their knowledge of filmmaking as well as explore the incredible city of Providence that RIFF is proud to call home.

For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

WHAT: 20th Annual Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival

WHEN: August 9-14, 2016

WHERE: Providence, Newport, Jamestown, and Woonsocket, Rhode Island

WHO: Flickers, Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative, creator of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$10 general admission to all screenings, except \$15 for the opening night Gala; Senior, group and student discounts available with advance purchase.

To order call 401-861-4445 or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.RIFilmFest.org.

The **20TH Annual Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) welcomes stellar filmmaking talents from all over the world to beautiful Providence, RI — one of America's oldest and most beloved cities. For nearly two decades, RIIFF has embraced its visitors with the sort of warm-hearted, independent spirit that fosters long-lasting friendships, sparks exciting creative projects, and inspires guests to return again and again. It is little wonder that Chris Gore's **ULTIMATE FILM FESTIVAL SURVIVAL GUIDE** praised RIIFF as "the kind of intimate festival experience that will change your life."

This year, the Festival will screen **273 films over its six-day run** and feature **96 World/United States Premieres**. The films feature such well-known actors as James Brolin, Melissa McBride ("The Walking Dead"), Karen Allen, Ciaran Hinds, Frances Fisher, Charles Dance, Danny Glover, Lesley Ann Warren, John Heder, Rufus Sewell, Ryan Kwanten ("True Blood"), Toni Colette, David Warner, Kate Winslet, Marlyn Mason, Rebecca Ferguson, Oscar Isaac, Kristen Wiig, Ed Asner, Guy Pearce, Jonathan Pryce, Star Jones, Randy Harrison, Nicholas Turturro, Vincent Pastore, Janeane Garofalo, Pamela Anderson, Aidan Gillen ("Game of Thrones"), and William Fichtner.

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, its production, the Rhode Island International Film Festival, has screened 4,161 independent films and videos out of 48,648 entries, presented 978 World/North American premieres, featured over 800 entries that were locally produced, and hosted 3,581 filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over 400,000 film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival and its programming.

Last year, RIIFF presented 265 films out of 5,713 films entered in competition, representing 66 countries and welcomed 223 filmmakers, producers, cast, and crew. 73 World/United States/North American Premieres were presented during the main Festival. For its 20th season, Flickers is gearing up for an even more expansive program, maintaining its reputation as the largest and most visible film festival in New England. This year, 273 feature length, documentary and short films - from 67 countries including France, Spain, Mexico, India, Italy, Palestine, Iran, Ireland, Germany, Russia, Nepal, Portugal, the United Kingdom and South Africa, and 34 states in the US - will be screened during the six-day Festival period at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island. Films have been selected from a record entry base of 6,078 submissions.

With a slew of unique offerings—including the **RI Film Forum**, **ScriptBiz**, **The Future Filmmaking Symposium**, **Providence Backlot Walking Tour**, a special **HP Lovecraft Walking Tour**, a free screening of the new documentary **"PELL"** in Newport, **Indie Film Budgeting Workshop**, **Now You See Me: An LGBTQ Filmmaker Symposium**, the RI Film and Television Office's Filmmaker Lounge, the **Women Behind The Camera Panel** and film showcase, family and kids film programming under the KidsEye umbrella, the **LGBTQ Film Festival**, **The Providence Jewish Film Festival**, the **Flickers' Youth Film Jury**, and an expanded closing night block party—RIIFF ensures each of its participating visitors is treated to an enriching and inspiring festival experience.

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION:

The fun kicks-off at the Official Opening Night Gala Screening and Soirée on Tuesday, August 9th, 7:00 p.m. at **The Vets**, One Avenue of the Arts, Providence, RI.

Co-hosts for the evening are **Michael Drywa, Esq.**, RIIFF's Advisory Board President and **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director of the RI Film & Television Office are joined by Providence **Mayor Jorge Elorza**.

AWARDS OF NOTE:

- The **RIIFF SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AWARD** will be presented to **Lukas Hassel** (New York) for his screenplay “Galapagos.”
- **GEORGE D. GANNETT LGBTQ INSPIRATION AWARD**, named in honor of former Flickers' Board member, George Draper Gannett, who helped steer the organization towards its multi-tiered arts focus and community outreach. The Award celebrates the passion of creativity within the world of Cinema and the Arts. The first annual Award is presented to **Richard Corso** and **Don Laliberte** of Providence.
- **THE 2016 FLICKERS' PRODUCER'S CIRCLE AWARD** recipients include **Judy Shoemaker**, WLNE ABC6; **Herb Weiss**, Economic and Cultural Affairs Officer Pawtucket, RI, **Lizzie Araujo**, Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism, the **Department of Environmental Management**, represented by **Janet Coit, Mary Kay and Robert Paquette**.

The Producer's Circle Award is presented to members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of the Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Then the Festival kicks off in earnest with nine exceptional cinematic gems.

TOILETS | Laura Luchetti, Director | 8 min. Italy, 2016 • **US PREMIERE**

Lea is a chubby old lady with a large pair of glasses perched on her nose. She has worked in the same public toilets for many years. She loves her job with its tidiness and cleanliness, but more than anything else, she loves to dream. TOILETS is the story of Lea's impossible dreams...

THE AMAZING ROCAMBOLE | Nicoloff Loic, Director | 19 min. France, 2016 • **WORLD PREMIERE**

In the mid-19th century, facing an editor who stubbornly refuses to give him a raise, what can young writer Ponson du Terrail do... except sacrifice Rocambole, the hero of his daily serial?

PRESENT | Meg Campbell, Director | 14 min. United Kingdom, 2016 • **WORLD PREMIERE**

With her sister slowly succumbing to early-onset Alzheimer's, Beth struggles to balance her responsibilities as a carer and a mother, whilst dealing with her own fear of developing the genetic disease.

A BEAUTIFUL DAY | Phedon Papamichael, Director | 21 min. USA, 2016 • **WORLD PREMIERE**

Gene Thompson, an 80 year old widower, lives a very monotonous life, full of routine and boredom. One day, as he nears the end of his life, he decides to make a difference. Starring James Brolin and Frances Fisher.

PANIC ATTACK! | Eileen O'Meara | 3 min. USA, 2016

You know the nagging thoughts that start with 'did I leave the coffee on?' and turn in to 'what if I give birth to Satan's baby?' This hand-drawn animation explores anxiety, obsession, and one woman's slippery hold on reality.

SUSPENDU | Elie Grappe, Director | 15 min. Switzerland, 2015

At dawn, in a great classical dance conservatory, a boy falls while rehearsing some movements. Something breaks in his foot, causing sharp pain. But it's exams day and the boy refuses to quit: he tries to face his dance partner and classmates, convincing himself his body has no limits.

THE CRAB | Ishani Jayamaha, Director | Sri Lanka/USA, 2015 • **US PREMIERE**

Nethu, a 10-year-old Sri Lankan boy wants to be a fisherman like his father, but knowing the discrimination fishermen go through, Nethu's father is determined to make Nethu follow a different dream.

"THE TALK" TRUE STORIES ABOUT THE BIRDS & THE BEES | Alain Delannoy, Director | 9 min.

Canada, 2016 • **WORLD PREMIERE**

There are things in life you never forget. One of them, like it or not, is 'The Talk'. Using a mix of hand drawn images, photographs, computer generated images as well as stop frame animated toys and props, the memories of several individuals have been caringly recreated in order to best present the awkwardness of one of life's strangest occurrences.

AMEN | Marie-Hélène Viens and Philippe Lupien, Directors | 9 min. Canada, 2015 • **US PREMIERE**

Adam, 11, is a messenger sent by God to spread the Final News. He'll heal you from your sins and prepare you for the Last Day. Will you be ready when they come? You don't have a lot of time, they're here : the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Following the film screening, audience members are invited to a **20th Anniversary Celebration**

Gala & Soirée on the Vets Stage. The "Taste of Rhode Island" features mouthwatering desserts from, Sin Desserts, Deloise Bakery, L'Artisan Café & Bakery, Scialo Brothers Bakery, and Seven Stars Bakery, plus exquisite food samplers provided by Ten Prime Steak and Sushi, and beverages from Narragansett Beer, Eno Fine Wine and Spirits, Granny Squibs Iced Tea, Empire Soda, and Vanuatu Coffee Roasters. Special thanks to Ellen Loconto and Just Ellen's Catering & Event Planning, and Dan Schwartz, General Manager of The Vets

Music will be provided by critically acclaimed local saxophonist, **Kevin Turco**, and guitarist, **John Monilos**.

Tickets for the screening only are \$15. Tickets for the combined Opening Night Screening and Celebration Gala are \$50. Purchase tickets online at: <http://www.rifilmfest.org> to avoid long lines. Tickets are also available for purchase at the door for the screening. The Box Office will open at 5:00 p.m. before the show. Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING:

A number of events that RIFF will hold during the week are targeted toward helping novice and professional filmmakers improve and refine their skills. One of the most popular events is the annual **RHODE ISLAND FILM FORUM**, to be held on Thursday, August 11, at the Biltmore Hotel Ballroom in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office, the University of Rhode Island's Harrington School of Communication and Media, Johnson and Wales University, Providence College, and Roger Williams University.

The **SCRIPTBIZ SCREENPLAY PITCH SEMINAR** returns on Friday, August 12 for its 17th edition, showcasing this year's Grand Prize Screenplay Competition winner GALAPAGOS written by Lukas Hassel from New York City, NY. The SCRIPTBIZ workshop is a great place for aspiring screenwriters looking to make an impact with their work by receiving constructive critique and advice from people with experience in the field. The director of the program, Andrew Lund, filmmaker and entertainment lawyer, is an Associate Professor and Director of the Integrated Media Arts MFA Program in the Film & Media Department at Hunter College of the City University of New York. The extensive list of panelists will include writer Chris Sparling, actor/director, Tom DeNucci, and writer/director, Alfred Thomas Catalfo, among others.

The popular **PROVIDENCE BACKLOT WALKING TOUR** takes place on Wednesday, August 10 with the Rhode Island Historical Society exposes attendees to the beauty and potential of the Ocean State's capital city as a significant location for film production.

For the first time since it began its collaboration with the RI Historical Society, the Festival will present a preview of its annual **HP LOVECRAFT LITERARY WALKING TOUR** for visiting filmmakers and festival attendees. The tour is a mainstay of the annual Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Film Festival and takes place each October. The tour celebrates noted Providence writer, H.P. Lovecraft in what would have been his 124th year. This many years later, his macabre stories are no less chilling today. The tour includes the houses and buildings that inspired Lovecraft to write some of his most horrific tales. Attendees walk the streets he walked, and check the many historic homes and buildings that he mentions in works such as "The Call of Cthulhu" and "The Thing on the Doorstep." The tour lasts 90 min.

Two years ago, Flickers was awarded a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for special programming. The grant supported **FLICKERS' SHORT FILM RETROSPECTIVE: JOURNEYS IN FILMMAKING**, which is now an ongoing programming component of the Festival. This year's JOURNEY will a look back at films that have played at the Festival over the past 20 years and have gone on to be nominated or win an Academy Award®. The program will feature a screening of an Oscar®-nominated and winning short that previously discovered at RIIFF, post Q&A discussions and a special master class featuring a panel of award-winning filmmakers and scholars.

Audience members, and more specifically, up-and-coming filmmakers attending the 2016 Festival will have the opportunity to learn about the development and evolution of the short films screened, the process and journey filmmakers have taken to make it in the industry and the growing importance of the short film genre.

Interactive networking events will be held nightly during the span of the six-day festival including the popular **CLOSING NIGHT BLOCK PARTY** at CLUB EGO, Richmond Street, downtown Providence. Last year's Block Party drew over 2,000 participants. This year the Festival will again partner with other Providence Arts organizations such as AS220's "FOO FEST", making the week of the Festival an unparalleled Celebration of Film, Arts and Culture.

RIIFF is one of only 6 Festivals in the world that is an **ACADEMY AWARD QUALIFIER** in the Short Narrative, Animation and Documentary Short categories as well as being a qualifier for BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and the **CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS** (Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television). With vanguard programming that seeks to showcase new voices in independent filmmaking from across the globe, RIIFF has long served as a platform that launches careers. Forty-six films that have premiered at RIIFF have been nominated for Academy Awards®, with nine winning the coveted Oscar®. Many films throughout the Festival have gained distribution from the likes of HBO, Showtime, and IFC. RIIFF's wide-range of competitive categories offer attending filmmakers and audience members a veritable feast of great stories, cutting edge presentations and memorable experiences.

MORE ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

RIIFF encourages all entrants and accepted filmmakers to attend the Festival, and offers all-access passes, reduced rates on area hotels, inns and B&B's, restaurant and local business discounts. There is even an option for filmmakers to stay free of charge with community hosts. The Festival awards over \$50,000 USD worth in prizes to winning filmmakers, including software, scholarships, consulting, and production services.

RIFF offers a variety of prestigious awards to some of the most talented artists in the business. The festival's Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Oscar-nominated actors Seymour Cassel and Cicely Tyson, Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine, and acclaimed legends of stage and screen, Theo Bikel, Ken Howard, Paul Sorvino, Blake Edwards and Patricia Neal. The festival's Crystal Image and Creative Vision Awards have been awarded to talents including Blythe Danner, Carol Patton, Federico Castelluccio, Rosa von Praunheim, Zach Braff, Jonathan Katz, Rupert Friend, Ioan Gruffudd, Michael Showalter, C.J. Adams, Robert Capron, composer Klaus Badelt, and children's book author Sandra Boynton.

More information on the Festival, including advance ticket sales for screenings or special events, plus student, group, and senior discounts, can be found at www.RIFilmFest.org. You can also write to RIFF, 83 Park Street, Suite 5, Providence, RI 02903; call 401- 861-4445; email: info@film-festival.org.

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