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PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

A New Kind of Children's Film Festival:

Flickers Launches "The Children's Hospitals International Film Festival"

First Edition to take Place at Boston Children's Hospital

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (April 7, 2017) • If ever there is a group of children who deserve the escape of watching brand new uplifting short films from around the world, it would be those children who find themselves undergoing medical treatment in children's hospitals. The **Flickers' Children's Hospitals International Film Festival** (CHIFF) will be an annual yearlong multi-venue festival that brings programs of short films to children's hospitals for the enjoyment of their patients. And, those young patients not only get to enjoy these wonderful films, but they are also the festival's judges and film reviewers. This red carpet event will bring the magic of cinema to the children that need it the most, as they become the real stars of their own festival.

The first **Flickers' Children's Hospitals International Film Festival** takes place at the **Boston Children's Hospital, April 18-30, 2017**. The event will be a partnership with the **Seacrest Studios** (Ryan Seacrest Foundation) before moving on to other children's hospitals in the US and abroad that have the facilities to get the programming to the young patients.

As Flickers moves forward to build this new festival into a worldwide event, they will be reaching out to filmmakers in order to expand their programming to include wonderful shorts in a wide variety of languages.

"I'm very excited to partner with the team at Flickers to bring this film festival to Boston Children's Hospital through our Seacrest Studios," said **Maxwell Svec**, Media Program Specialist at the Seacrest Studios who believes the festival complements their Foundation's mission.

"This patient-focused, interactive event will empower patients and their families to make their own selections and choices in an environment that can quite often steal that ability from them. I can't wait to watch this unfold and see them engage with these films, their characters, and their creators."

George T. Marshall, Founder/Executive Director of Flickers, echoed that enthusiasm, "The Children's Hospitals International Film Festival is a wonderful addition to our programming and a perfect fit of our non-profit artistic mission. This is truly an example of the power of film to both impact and elevate."

Miranda Day, Program Administration Manager for the Creative Arts Program at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), is helping Flickers to develop this inaugural program so that can be an ongoing partnership with Flickers, "I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to bring the magic of Hollywood to Boston Children's Hospital. Partnering with Flickers allows our patients and families to participate in film viewings and critiques that will influence what is being shown in cinemas and theaters in the future.

"The patients can immerse themselves in the imagery and storytelling of the films while getting their mind off of the hospital for a short while. This unique type of program will allow patients of all ages and abilities to participate and we can't wait to see their reactions."

Shawn Quick, RIIFF Director of Programming, has been hard at work curating the films for this program, "The Rhode Island International Film Festival receives so many truly great international films each year than we could possibly show. With the addition of our Children's Hospitals International Film Festival we have created a perfect outlet for our filmmakers and are able to share their work with an important and appreciative audience."

Festival concept created by RIIFF Board member, **Duncan Putney** (Creative Producer at Original Concept & Development Associates) who is excited to help give birth to this first of its kind project with such a wonderful team.

"These kids are the perfect audience for a festival of wonderfully entertaining short films that have the ability to transport an audience and stimulate the imagination.

"I've been hoping to create this new kind of children's film festival for a while now and the Seacrest Studios along with Boston Children's Hospital make for the perfect partnership to realize this inaugural festival.

"I have no doubt that this program of short films can make a big difference in the lives of these kids."

ABOUT FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

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. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Documentary and Animation Short Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Canadian Screen Awards and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 8-13, 2017** at the **Providence Performing Arts Center** (PPAC) and **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call 401.861.4445.

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