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UNIVERSITY

NEWS RELEASE

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Confucius Institute celebration Sept. 9-14

Golden Jasmine Chinese Film Festival opens at Bryant Sept. 9

SMITHFIELD, R.I. (September 4, 2007) – Contemporary Chinese cinema is at the heart of the Golden Jasmine Chinese Film Festival, part of a week-long celebration marking the formal celebration of the Confucius Institute at Bryant University.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, features three evenings of movies presented in partnership with the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Bryant's Confucius Institute was the first China-funded institute in southern New England dedicated to the promotion of Chinese language and culture. This 10-year joint project between Bryant University and the Office of Chinese Language Council International offers resources to benefit students, educators, individuals, and businesses in Rhode Island and the region. Named after the revered Chinese thinker, educator, and philosopher, the Institute is managed by the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University.

The Golden Jasmine festival takes place in Janikies Theatre on the Bryant campus.

Sunday, September 9, 6-8 p.m.

Tales of Rain and Magic, written and directed by Sun Xiaoru, is a story of a young girl's coming of age, and of the psychological and physiological changes she encounters along the way. This film, which had its U.S. premiere at this year's Rhode Island International Film Festival, has played to capacity audiences at festivals around the world.

Shown with the 15-minute drama *Chinese Dumplings*, which illuminates how, in childhood, small moments define us in big ways. This short, written and directed by Michelle Hung, was screened at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival, the Santa Barbara Film Festival, and the Newport Beach Film Festival.

A reception follows screening of both films.

Monday, Sept 10, 6-9 p.m.

The Orchard, directed by Hu Ze, is a dark, meditative tale that explores the condition of the Chinese medical system and those who struggle within it. To collect money for his mother's expensive medical treatment, Wong Bo hatches a twisted scheme to sell human organs. In the words of the director Hu Ze,

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“The performance ignores individuality, to pursue zero performance. What the cinematographer does is to look at the tragedy falling from a long distance, like an ancient statue forgotten by the time.” The film will be preceded by *China Explorer*, a presentation of photographs taken by members of the Bryant community who have traveled to China. The photo exhibition will be in the Unistructure Rotunda.

A reception follows the screening of film.

Wednesday Sept 12, 6-8 p.m.

Across the Plateau is a visually spectacular documentary about seven Chinese men and women, all retired, who embark on a 3,100-kilometer cycling journey from Lanzhou, a smoggy industrial city in northwest China, across the Tibetan plateau to Everest Base Camp. The seven cyclists all survived traumatic experiences during the Cultural Revolution, and their life experiences contribute to their determination and stamina in tackling this late-life adventure. The film, produced in Australia and China, was directed by Paul Liu and Zhang Zeming. It had its world premiere at the 2007 Rhode Island International Film Festival. (Still color photographs from the film can be downloaded at <http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/2440048147.html>)

A reception follows screening of film.

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For 144 years, Bryant University has developed the knowledge and character of students in order to help them succeed. A unique integration of business, liberal arts, and technology defines the Bryant educational experience. Located in Smithfield, R.I., the university has more than 3,600 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students. The university is accredited by NEASC — New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and the College of Business is accredited by AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Bryant’s academic reputation is complemented by its business outreach centers that offer services to businesses in this region.

The Rhode Island International Film Festival has celebrated over eleven years as a premiere international, independent film festival. Out of 3,000 film festivals worldwide, RIIFF is one of only a handful of festivals that has been granted status as a qualifying event for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (“Oscars”). In a period of just over five years, fifteen films that have had their premiere with RIIFF have been nominated for an Oscar and half-a-dozen have gone on to win the award. In addition to its main festival in August, RIIFF also produces year-round programming, educational workshops, and community events. For more information, please visit our web site at www.RIFilmFest.org.