



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2008 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
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KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES
YOUNG FILMMAKERS' WORK AT THE BELL STREET CHAPEL
The Rhode Island International Film Festival Proudly Hosts its 10th Annual
KidsEye™ Sidebar Festival August 4-10th

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (July 27, 2008)—The **KidsEye™ International Film Festival** will once again showcase the best works of young filmmakers from around the world August 4-10th. This year, the Bell Street Chapel, 5 Bell Street in Providence will serve as the central host for the program. Other screening locations include the Providence Place Cinemas 16, the Providence Performing Arts Center, the Columbus Theatre Arts Center, and the "Empire Theatre" at the Providence Public Library. The **KidsEye™ International Film Festival** is a sidebar of the annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) and serves as an opportunity to all young filmmakers to present their latest work which includes documentaries, features, music videos, dramas, animation, oral histories, video poetry, experimental, & even PSA's

KidsEye™ at RIIFF is a two-part program. The first part takes place in July with the annual **KidsEye Filmmaking Summer Camp**. The KidsEye™ program is directed by Alyssa Holland Short and Keith Brown. The summer camp is based at the University of Rhode Island's Kingston Campus, with support from the College Arts & Sciences and the Film Media Program. This year, 35 campers from across the country put their filmmaking skills to use. They produced films that will make up a part of the August film festival. These films along with others received from young filmmakers from around the world compose the twenty-seven films that will be screening at this year's Festival.

The 2008 KidsEye™ Festival features work by already established young filmmaker Joseph Procopio from Toronto, Canada. Joe has been screening his work at RIIFF and KidsEye™ since he was eight years old. He is now 14. Having already created more than a handful of short films, Joe has screened his films at many festivals internationally including: South by Southwest (SXSW) and The Chicago International Children's Film Festival, among others. He brings two new premieres to Rhode Island this year: "Contagious" and "Tiny Pillows."

Some of this year's highlights include the memorable action/adventure film "**The Flyboys**" directed by Rocco DeVilliers, which will be given two screenings, one at the Bell Chapel and the other at Providence Place Cinemas 16; the hilarious "**The Adventures of Food Boy**," directed by Dane Cannon, and featuring Lucas Grabeel, fresh from Disney's popular "High School Musical" series where he played Ryan Evans; Michele Meek's locally directed charmer, "**Red Sneakers**;" Christopher R. Watson's heartwarming "**The Rainbow Tribe**" with David James Elliott from TV's "Jag;" "**JUMP!**" directed by Helen Hood Scheer, about competitive jump rope that follows five teams nationwide for two years as they single-mindedly pursue the dream of becoming World Champions; and "**Katrina's Children**"

directed by Laura Belsey, a timely and memorable, multi-faceted portrait of nineteen children, ages 5 through 13, from different neighborhoods of New Orleans. Told entirely from the children's point of view, the film captures with vivid poignancy the tragic ramifications of the greatest man made and natural disaster in modern American History.

KidsEye Festival awards are offered for **Best Feature**, **Best Short** and **Best Animation**. Winners receive trophies, passes and an opportunity to have their work screened during RIFF's "Best of Fest Week" after the main festival.

The Rhode Island International Film Festival is supported in part by the *City of Providence*, the *Providence Tourism Council*, the *Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism*, *WJAR TV10*, the *Providence Phoenix*, *Clear Channel Communications*, *Sony*, the *Rhode Island State Council on the Arts*, *Amtrak*, *Rule Broadcast/Boston Camera*, the *Biltmore Hotel*, *Amtrak*, *H.B. Communications*, the *URI's College of Arts and Sciences*, *URI's Feinstein College of Continuing Education*, the *URI Film Media Program*, *Enterprise Rent-a-Car*, *Art New England Magazine* and contributions from members and community supporters.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** and the **KidsEye™** program are produced by the **Flickers Arts Collaborative**; an organization with 25 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public.

HOW TO BUY YOUR TICKETS & GENERAL INFORMATION:

TICKET PRICES:

Morning Single show:

Adult \$8 Child \$6 with group discounts available

Afternoon & Evening shows:

Adult \$10 Child \$6 with group discounts available

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org). Student, group, and senior discounts are also available with advance booking. All tickets can be purchased at the door on the day of the screening. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445; or write RIFF, 268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto www.RIFilmFest.org.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIFF 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," RIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 300 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 5-10, 2008.

For more information, write RIFF, P.O. Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445. E-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org

KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Films made by kids and films for kids. International and homegrown with a touch of whimsy and enlightenment

AUGUST 4-10, 2008

MONDAY:

LOCATION:

Bell Street Chapel
5 Bell Street
Providence, RI 02909
401.273.5678

9:30 a.m.

ANITA'S AFRICA

Directed by Beverley Reid, 18 min.

CANADA/UGANDA

In this documentary, children living on a small island off the coast of British Columbia enthusiastically exchange letters with children in Uganda. Among the new pen pals is Anita Kemirembe, a lively 10-year old living on the outskirts of Kampala, who tells of her daily life in Africa and paints a vivid portrait of her rich culture and environment.

Young viewers will gain an understanding of life as it is for a ten year old in the developing world and come to appreciate the similarities and differences between their lives and Anita's.

GLOBAL KIDS SHOW

Directed by Allison Cody, 20 min.

INDIA

A multipart series that includes a worldwide perspective: India

GLOBAL KIDS SHOW

Directed by Allison Cody, 20 min.

THE NETHERLANDS

A multipart series that includes a worldwide perspective: The Netherlands

SAFARI

Directed by Catherine Chalmers, 7 min.

USA

'Safari' is an evolutionary melodrama. Here the cockroach emerges from the primordial sea, crawling on land for the first time. Then, navigating the lush, verdant jungle alongside Chalmers' ground-hugging camera, the cockroach encounters oversized insects, amphibians, and reptiles. When two gigantic rhinoceros beetles lock horns in aggressive combat, it is like 1950s sci-fi movies in which irradiated insects rule the earth.

Yet this intimate vantage point also magnifies the striking physical beauty of these tiny creatures, inviting an appreciative reappraisal of numerous species we typically overlook or devalue as mere pests. ICP, New York

12:00 p.m.

THE FLYBOYS

Directed by Rocco DeVilliers, 118 min.

USA

Jason (Jesse James) and Kyle (Reiley McClendon), recent friends from different sides of the tracks, become embroiled in the adventure of their lives when they discover a mysterious airplane at the local small-town airport. The boys sneak aboard the plane for a look, but are forced to hide in the luggage compartment when two strange men show up. Soon Jason and Kyle unexpectedly find themselves airborne over the open Arizona desert. After hours in the air, the boys unwittingly uncover a bomb in the luggage compartment. When they burst into the cabin to report their discovery, they find that everyone on board has bailed out. The boys must take the controls and land the plane themselves. But their troubles are only beginning as Jason and Kyle realize that they've foiled a heist to steal millions of dollars from the mob in this high-action, coming-of-age film.

TUESDAY:

LOCATION:

Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street

Providence, RI 02909

401.273.5678

9:30 a.m.

Theme: "And the Moral is ..."

BIRTHMARK

Directed by David Woods, 10 min.

USA

Set in 1987, a young American boy with a large birthmark on his neck embarks on his first day at a new school. He faces the insults of his classmates as well as his own insecurities. He begins to come to terms with his individuality with a little help from none other than Mikhail Gorbachev.

Writer-Director, David Woods grew up in Ocala, Florida and graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1998. While there, he wrote and directed several short films. Since graduating, he has worked consistently in various aspects of film and television production, serving as Post Production Supervisor on Stephen King's Nightmares & Dreamscapes for TNT, Hack for CBS, Big Love for HBO, LAX for NBC, and currently serves as Associate Producer on Everybody Hates Chris for the CW.

His short film, SECOND THOUGHTS, was screened at several prominent festivals, including the Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films, the Savannah Film Festival, and the Ashland Independent Film Festival. SECOND THOUGHTS was also featured in special program screenings at the Canadian Film Centre in Toronto and the Director's Guild Theater in Los Angeles.

David currently resides in Los Angeles and is in preproduction to shoot a new feature film entitled USELESS PEOPLE.

MAGGIE AND MILDRED

Directed by Holly Klein, 4 min.

USA

Maggie and Mildred have been friends their whole lives. Well, at least ONE of their whole lives!

RED SNEAKERS

Directed by Michele Meek, 6 min.
USA

'Red Sneakers' is a short film about nine-year-old Cassie and her little brother Tommy who go through a series of after-school babysitters leaving their frazzled working mom with few options. They find themselves at the home of Mrs. Feinstein, a rigid woman who goes to great lengths to keep her spoiled son separate from the other kids. However, she's met her match in Cassie who finds a way to subvert her control and payback the shoddy treatment!

WRECK THE HALLS

Directed by David Abramson; Michelle Goetsch, 18 min.
USA

Winter is a magical time, when traditions of old are passed down from generation to generation. Ms. McCracken, a compulsive children's choir director, and Miss Leech, a perky retirement village activities director, ensure that magic will continue, through an adopt a grandparent program... (whether the kids, or residents, like it or not!) One little girl enlists the help of an unlikely resident (Mickey Rooney) to give everyone what they deserve for Christmas. Young and old together...Bad idea!

12:00 p.m.

SNOWTIME

Directed by Dana Dorian, 1 min.
UNITED KINGDOM

"Snowtime" is a sequel to the hilarious BAFTA winning short "Fetch". Colin takes his dog Cumberland for a walk in the local park during a blizzard. What happens when mans best friend turns against him?

CONTAGIOUS

Directed by Susan & Katherine & Joseph Procopio, 4 min.
CANADA

The simple test of a contagious idea turns into a case of monkey-see, monkey do...

THE RAINBOW TRIBE

Directed by Christopher R. Watson, 90 min.
USA

David James Elliott, as Morgan Roberts, gives the performance of a lifetime in this often raucous, yet heartwarming film. Based on a true story, Morgan is in the fight for his life as he battles cancer. Returning to the summer camp of his youth and to reunite with his childhood best friend and now camp director "Sunny," (played by Ed Quinn), Morgan finds himself as the camp counselor of a rag-tag group of 10 year olds (headed by Grayson Russell of "Talladega Nights"). On an unforgettable journey of a desperate man in search of a miracle, this oddball group will have you laughing and crying as they find their way to having the best summer of their lives. In some of the most touching performances, in one of the most endearing films of its kind, "The Rainbow Tribe," truly is for anyone that has ever been in danger... of growing up.

<p><u>LOCATION:</u> Providence Performing Arts Center</p>
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220 Weybosset Street Providence RI 02903
401.421.2997

7:00 p.m.

VARMINTS

Directed by Marc Craste, 24 min.

UNITED KINGDOM

Friendly-looking rodent-like creatures blissfully and quietly garden in a tranquil countryside. But their world of nature is swept away by an industrial revolution, so noisy that no one can hear themselves think. So they stop thinking, everything goes black. But one small rodent still nurtures plants in his little apartment. One day, he feels a strange sense of hope, and that it is time to move on. He carries his beloved plants to an air vent through which light is streaming, and leaves them. The plants are taken in by mysterious other beings, and varmints find an unexpected place where they can be truly at home, with grass and birdsong.

(SHOW AS PART OF RIIFF'S OPENING NIGHT SCREENINGS)

WEDNESDAY:

LOCATION:

Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street

Providence, RI 02909

401.273.5678

9:30 a.m.

TINY PILLOWS

Directed by Joseph Procopio, 4 min.

CANADA

"Tiny Pillows" is a short film based on a free verse poem written by the director, 13 year old, Joseph Procopio about magic and the beauty of snow.

We are pleased to welcome Joe back to RIIFF. A multiple award-winner with the Festival, Joe's work now plays across the continent.

To learn more about Joe, read the recent interview on him in Scholastic On-line:

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749584&print=2>

JUMP!

Directed by Helen Hood Scheer, 85 min.

USA

JUMP! is a character-driven documentary about competitive jump rope that follows five teams nationwide for two years as they single-mindedly pursue the dream of becoming World Champions. Part extreme sport, part art-form, the moves are masterfully choreographed, bursting with rhythm, energy, sweat and originality. These teenagers sacrifice everything to get where they are and each has his/her own reason to be so driven.

Starting with kids as they create mind-boggling routines and meticulously train for regional competitions around the country, each jumper's defining traits are established through interviews and verite scenes. Tori is a precocious powerhouse; Marcus is

arrogant with his team; Lee values innovation above everything; Nick and Jeff believe "if it's not the hardest, it's not the best."

Moving from regionals to nationals, JUMP! shows everything from high-stakes drama to prayer to temper tantrums. When competitors from around the country descend on the practice court at Nationals, both friends and rivals are on the prowl to determine who needs to be watched. Competition moves into full swing, with explosive performances, shattered records and devastating defeats.

After the trophies are awarded, the best teach one another their greatest tricks, invent new moves together and collaborate on advancing their beloved sport. They form Team USA and strive for World Championship title. In JUMP!'s finale, vying against jumpers from five continents, our characters realize their journeys not by beating others but by trying to best themselves, offering a rousing celebration of personal triumph and transformation.

LOCATION:
Providence Public Library
270 Broadway
Providence, RI 02903
401.455.8000

11:00 a.m.

KATRINA'S CHILDREN

Directed by Laura Belsey, 85 min.

USA

KATRINA'S CHILDREN is a multi-faceted portrait of nineteen children, ages 5 through 13, from different neighborhoods of New Orleans. Told entirely from the children's point of view, the film captures with vivid poignancy the tragic ramifications of the greatest man made and natural disaster in modern American History.

By focusing exclusively on children's experiences, KATRINA'S CHILDREN humanizes this epic storm and seeks to understand the heartbreaking consequences in a small intimate way. Part oral history, part lyrical meditation on childhood, loss, grief, healing and socio-economic divides, KATRINA'S CHILDREN addresses these grand themes through intimate vignettes that are deceptively understated.

The film shifts between past and present, weaving the children's thoughts on Katrina with 'verite-style' scenes of their everyday life. We enter the children's world through their stories, play and art and we have animated several of their drawings, magically bringing to life their interior universe.

The children we are profiling come from all walks of life: from the daughter of the queen of Carnival, to underprivileged kids still stuck in Texas. Their common denominator is Katrina - an event that affected them all, to varying degrees. The similarities and differences between these children are at times surprising and reveal patterns and problems that predate Katrina.

Aching with sadness, yet grounded in hope, KATRINA'S CHILDREN is ultimately a celebration of children's extraordinary power of resilience and a tribute to New Orleans' unique and indomitable spirit.

LOCATION:

COLUMBUS THEATRE ARTS CENTER,
Cinémathèque
270 Broadway
Providence, RI 02903
401.621.9660

7:15 p.m.

VOOR EEN PAAR KNIKKERS MEER (FOR A FEW MARBLES MORE)

Directed by Jelmar Hufen, 11 min.

THE NETHERLANDS

Four ten-year-olds are kicked out of their favorite playground by two aggressive drunkards. When they realize their parents are not going to help them, there's only one solution. They have to find a way to get the toughest boy in the neighborhood to help them.

THURSDAY:

LOCATION:
Bell Street Chapel
5 Bell Street
Providence, RI 02909
401.273.5678

9:30 a.m.

ABRIDGED

Directed by Arjun Rihan, 4 min.

USA

A romantic comedy set on the Golden Gate Bridge.

BURLEY!

Directed by Dave Edwardz; Gareth Cowen, 9 min.

AUSTRALIA

A young tetra fish, one of a million in her school, just wants some attention. Feeling lonely and bored, she is attracted by the manic antics of a gang of older fish who spend the hours inventing new extreme sports. She begins a quest to gain their acceptance, but at what cost?

GLOBAL KIDS SHOW

Directed by Allison Cody, 20 min.

NEW ZEALAND

A multipart series that includes a worldwide perspective: NEW ZEALAND

GLOBAL KIDS SHOW

Directed by Allison Cody, 20 min.

AUSTRALIA

A multipart series that includes a worldwide perspective: AUSTRALIA

MANDY & LESTER

Directed by Lena Beug, 11 min.

USA

In suburban Middle America a spectacled, 10-year-old loner named Lester will emerge as an unlikely hero. When Lester sees two boxes of cookies fall off the back of Mandy's bicycle, he embarks on an epic journey to return them. Normal streets, houses and

backyards take on larger-than-life proportions, as Lester searches for the mysterious girl who lost the cookies. Lester encounters many colorful characters on his quest to find Mandy. His bravery is put to the test by would-be thieves, the Brooze Bros. and the twins. The Brooze Bros. are neighborhood bullies, and they turn Lester's world into an out-of-focus nightmare when they knock off his glasses. The twins create their own havoc by falsely accusing Lester of stealing the cookies and leading a neighborhood charge against him. Lester, however, is not entirely alone in these fights. He makes a surprising friend in Mrs. Whitewrist, an elderly, white-haired woman on a motorized scooter who comes to his rescue on both occasions.

LOCATION:

Providence Place Cinemas 16

10 Providence Place, Providence, RI 02903
401.270.4646

12:00 p.m.

THE FLYBOYS

Directed by Rocco DeVilliers, 118 min.

USA

Jason (Jesse James) and Kyle (Reiley McClendon), recent friends from different sides of the tracks, become embroiled in the adventure of their lives when they discover a mysterious airplane at the local small-town airport. The boys sneak aboard the plane for a look, but are forced to hide in the luggage compartment when two strange men show up. Soon Jason and Kyle unexpectedly find themselves airborne over the open Arizona desert. After hours in the air, the boys unwittingly uncover a bomb in the luggage compartment. When they burst into the cabin to report their discovery, they find that everyone on board has bailed out. The boys must take the controls and land the plane themselves. But their troubles are only beginning as Jason and Kyle realize that they've foiled a heist to steal millions of dollars from the mob in this high-action, coming-of-age film.

FRIDAY:

LOCATION:

Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street
Providence, RI 02909
401.273.5678

9:30 a.m.

EL MONO (THE MONKEY)

Directed by Hyeseung Lee, 4 min.

USA

People are stressed out everyday, and they have different ways to deal with their own problems. Dealing with stress can be very complicated, or it can be as simple as daydreaming. I wanted to address in my short film that if you have imagination, and if you are capable of daydreaming even for one second, it can be a healthy way to escape from your stressful life, and it will help you get back to your feet in no time.

My main character, Lala Lee, she is a college student who got loads of assignments to do, and that's always a good reason to be stressed. After a long day, Lala is on her way to go back to her apartment, but she misses the train, she tries to rest on a bench, but a smelly homeless guy is occupying the seat. Lala thinks the day couldn't get any

worse than that. The train arrives, and she's about to have the most crazy ride. She meets a guide who will lead her to her imaginative vacation.

Anybody can meet this guide, and his name is Mono, you can see him in a subway, posters, book, sketches, and of course in your imaginations... You might be the next person who will likely to meet this guide.

THE ADVENTURES OF FOOD BOY

Directed by Dane Cannon, 90 min.

USA

Ezra is a top high school student with big goals. He's determined to make his life extraordinary. And although he's still an obscure geek/nerd he's well on his way towards those goals. In an attempt to improve his college admissions chances, Ezra runs for class president. Even his close friends know that he stands no chance of winning.

On the day of the debate between class presidential candidates, Ezra inexplicably smears peanut butter all over his face during class. He later finds an orange in what he thought was an empty lunch sack. During the critical debate, and after noticing pieces of pastrami scattered around him, Ezra inadvertent throws pastrami at his opponent and a teacher. Chaos ensues. Ezra locks himself in a bathroom and while trying to calm down he sprays pastrami, hundreds of pieces of bread and gallons of mustard around the bathroom.

Upon arriving home, and after being suspended from school, Ezra's Grandma reveals that they share the "food power": an ability to make edible items appear in their hands. Many of their ancestors had the same power, and most major food discoveries throughout history were made with this power.

Although Ezra starts to gain some popularity, his inability to control this 'gift' starts to unravel his well-crafted plan to make his life extraordinary. Ultimately, Ezra must decide whether he will reject the gift he has inherited or whether he will build upon his family's legacy and become...Food Boy.

7:00 p.m.

"KID'S EYE RED CARPET PREMIERE"

The work completed by our annual summer filmmaking camp is given the "Red Carpet" treatment.

TICKET PRICES:

Morning Single show:

Adult \$8 Child \$6 *with group discounts available*

Afternoon & Evening shows:

Adult \$10 Child \$6 *with group discounts available*

For more information, write RIFF, P.O. Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445. E-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org

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