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FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF ITS 16TH SEASON WITH OVER 200 FILMS

Film-Filled Week To Be Hosted at Locations Across The State of Rhode Island
Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Flickers Arts Collaborative

ABSTRACT:

On August 7, 2012, Flickers celebrates its 30th Anniversary Year and kicks-off its 16th annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** in Providence, RI. This week-long celebration of independent cinema and film arts is New England's largest film festival and only Academy Award (i.e. "Oscars") qualifying event. Out of the 7,000-plus film festivals worldwide, only 75 of them share this distinction. In addition to film screenings, the festival will feature the return of the RI Film Forum—geared to be a region-wide educational workshop on bringing film production to the Ocean State—award ceremonies, filmmaker symposia, the annual ScriptBiz Screenwriting Workshop, a walking tour of film locations in Providence, and networking events. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

WHAT: 16th Annual FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival

WHEN: August 7-12, 2012

WHERE: Providence, Barrington, Bristol, Westerly and Jamestown, 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. Senior, group and student discounts offered with advance purchase. To order call 401-861-4445 or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets online at www.RIFilmFest.org. The full Festival schedule can be found at <http://riff.festivalgenius.com/2012/films>.

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(PROVIDENCE/NEWPORT, RI • July 18, 2012) — With filmmakers expected to arrive from across the globe, the **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** kicks off its 16th annual event August 7– 12th and celebrates the 30th Anniversary of its non-profit creator, Flickers. Over 200 feature length, documentary and short films – from 51 countries, and 32 states in the United States - will be screened over a six-day period at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island. Films have been selected from a record entry base of 4,700 submissions. The Festival will present **28 World Premieres** and **26 North American/United States Premieres**.

RIIFF is a magnet for those who've made short films because it is a qualifying event for the short film category of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In 2011, five of the films that premiered at RIIFF went on to receive Academy Award nominations, and two wins (*"The Shore" directed by Terry George* and *"The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore" directed by William Joyce*.)

"This has been a tremendous year for the Festival," said RIIFF Executive Director George T. Marshall, "Not only have entries been up significantly over last year, but we are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of



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Flickers. This allows us to look back at some of our older programming models and reintroduce them to new audiences. This year's Festival will illustrate the range and scope of RIIFF, which I think will prove exciting for filmgoers. The festival's goal has always been to recognize new and undiscovered talent and to be a welcoming refuge for filmmakers to present their work. For us, the filmmakers are our stars."

From James Spione, director of the Oscar®-nominated documentary short film, "Incident in New Baghdad" came this email: "Thank you, RIIFF, for recognizing my film way back in August. Your award is what convinced me to make a qualifying run for the Oscar! xo JS."

Bob Cowsill of "The Cowsills" wrote the Festival after last year's World Premiere of *Family Band: The Cowsills Story*: "I know the festival is winding down today and I wanted to thank you personally for creating such a wonderful evening for my family at the Rhode Island Film Festival. You were amazing. We really appreciate the opportunity you presented to our family in accepting our documentary for your film festival and for the attention you personally gave the evening and everyone involved with it. Really a great personal touch to a great event."

Since **RIIFF** is one of only 75 film festivals worldwide that is accredited by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) the Opening Night has become a crowd-pleasing "Salute to the Art of the Short Film." Last year, more than 1,200 people attended the event. RIIFF has seen 27 films that premiered at the Festival receive Oscar® nominations with six (6) winning the Award; most of the films were part of the Opening Night program.

This year's **Opening Night Gala** on Tuesday, August 7th at The Vets in Providence, RI keeps that tradition alive. Films to be screened include "**ASAD**," Directed by Bryan Buckley from South Africa; "**Trotteur**" Directed by Arnaud Brisebois and Francis Leclerc from the Province of Québec, Canada; "**Pesaran-e-Buzkashi (Buzkashi Boys)**," Directed by Sam French from Afghanistan; "**Friend Request Pending**" starring Judi Dench and directed by Chris Foggin, United Kingdom; "**BRÛLEURS (Burners)**," Directed by Farid BENTOUMI 2011, France; "**Mannen fra isødet (The Devil's Ballroom)**," Directed by Henrik Martin K. Dahlsbakken, Greenland, Norway; and "**J'aurais pu être une pute (I could've been a hooker)**" Directed by Baya Kasmi from France.

RIIFF has received national and international recognition. It was listed in the Providence Business News as one of the Top 25 year-round events in Rhode Island. The Boston Globe's NewEnglandtravel.com named RIIFF as one of the top five New England film festivals. And, it was cited in *Moviemaker Magazine* as one of the "Top 25 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee."

The 2012 Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival will be dedicated to the memories of RIIFF Lifetime Achievement Award winner (2009), acting legend **Ernest Borgnine** and **Bruce W. Putney** (1925 to 2012) the father of FLICKERS board member Duncan B.Putney. Bruce was a US Navy fighter pilot and R.C.A.F. pilot during WW2. He was the inspiration for the short film "HALF PINT," written and directed by his son.

PLANNED FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Return of the **RI Film Forum**, scheduled for **Thursday, August 9th** in collaboration with the **RI Film & Television Office** and the **Providence Journal**;

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- New focus and thrust for the annual **ScriptBiz Screenplay Pitch Seminar** and showcase of this year's Grand Prize Screenplay competition winner, **Carla Maria Sullwold** and her work: "*Raising Rufus: A Maine Love Story*"
- Showcase of films and cultural activities from the Province of Québec celebrating the **Jubilé Franco-Américain** programming from 1994-2011 and the 18 year partnership with the **Délégation du Québec, Boston and Tourism Québec;**
- **Walking Tour of Providence** and film location sites in collaboration with the **RI Historical Society**
- Panel discussion on the **Art of Film Music** with composer, **Klaus Badelt** (Pirates of the Caribbean)
- Partnership with **swissnex Boston, Consulate of Switzerland** and screenings of new film work;
- Celebrating its 50th Anniversary and a new partnership with the **INSAS** (Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle et des Techniques de diffusion), the Graduate School of Arts of the French Community of Belgium, one of the Europe's premier film institutes and screening of international student graduate thesis films. (URL: <http://www.insas.be/>);
- Partnership with the **International Cinematographers Guild** and showcase of short film winners of the **Emerging Cinematographer Awards**
- Partnership programming of short films from **UniFrance;**
- Select films from New England filmmakers take the stage in partnership with the **Woods Hole Film Festival** and the **Martha's Vineyard International Film Festival** including the premiere of "**Words of Witness**" Directed by Mai Iskander
- Films from 51 countries including *Norway, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Lithuania, the UK*
- Retrospective of the work of noted Canadian filmmaker, **Joseph Procopio** whose first film premiered at RIIFF when he was eight years old (and is now 18) and whose work plays at leading Festivals worldwide;
- Expanded **Youth Film Jury Screenings** and new partnership with **RI Foundation Equity Action** to expand LGBTQ youth participation.
- Showcase of regional student films as part of the **New England Student Film Festival**
- Return of the **Providence Underground Film Festival**

FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) will honor the following award recipients whom FLICKERS feels have made long lasting positive contributions to the field of art during the week of the 2012 RIIFF, **August 7-12:**

- **ROGER WILLIAMS INDEPENDENT VOICE AWARD** will be presented to Trinity Repertory Actor, **Barbara Meek** on **Tuesday August 7th, 7pm at The Vets**. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose vision promotes tolerance, compassion and understanding. Named after the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, who established an American tradition of religious freedom and individual liberty that was encoded in The Bill of Rights. This award honors a truly unique American whose ethics, philosophy and conscience reflects that of Roger Williams, who provided a refuge from rampant religious persecution, an open door to all people; a safe harbor in a vast sea of tyranny and oppression.



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- **RIIFF SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AWARD** will be presented to **Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold** for her screenplay for "*Raising Rufus: A Maine Love Story*" on **Tuesday August 7th, 7pm at The Vets**. This award is presented to the Grand Prize winner of the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival Screenplay Competition.
- **PRODUCER'S CIRCLE AWARD** will be presented to Assistant to the Executive Director, RI Film & Television Office, **Carol Conley** (Pawtucket); International Arts Advocate, **Ineko Stephan** (Newport); filmmakers **William Smyth** (Boston), **Eric Latek** (Providence); and former RIIFF Managing Director, **Demetria J. Carr** (Barrington). The event takes place on **Wednesday, August 8th, 6:30pm at The Vets**. The award serves to showcase members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival.
- **GEORGE M. COHAN AMBASSADOR AWARD** will be presented by **Karen Bordeleau** of the Providence Journal to arts advocate and Rhode Island College President, **Nancy Carriuolo** on **Thursday, August 9th, 12pm at the Biltmore Hotel Ballroom**. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose work, passion, and drive epitomizes a level of excellence which reflects creatively on their Rhode Island roots. Named after famed Providence entertainer George M. Cohan, who was born on the 4th of July, this award honors truly unique Americans who have made a timeless contribution to the arts and have inspired future generations of Rhode Islanders.
- **CREATIVE VISION AWARD** will be presented to film producer and cultural ambassador and Brown University graduate, **Janet Yang** on **Saturday, August 11th, 6:30pm at The Vets**. The Award celebrates the passion of creativity within the world of cinema.

THE FILMS SCHEDULED TO PLAY RIIFF 2012:

The Festival will not be short on name actors gracing the screen or working behind the camera. These include: *Adam Brody, Bobby Campos, Helena Bonham Carter, Lucas Haas, John Hurt, Robbie Coltrane, Charlie Cox, Tom Wilkinson, Christopher Lloyd, Kathy Bates, Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Jack Ryder, George Takai, Lin Shaye, Joan Chen, Judi Dench, Joe Mazzello, Russell Tovey, Henry Rollins, Q'orianka Kilcher, Tantoo Cardinal, Charlie Cox, Sophia Myles, Bill Paxton, Mike Farrell, Martin Freeman, and Tom Hollander.*

Some of the **RIIFF 2012 Features** to be screened at the Festival include: **3 Days of Normal**, Directed by Ishai Setton; **Apartment in Athens** (*Appartamento ad Atene*) Directed by Ruggero Dipaola; **LO AZUL DEL CIELO** (*The Blue of the Sky*), Directed by Juan Uribe; **Breakfast with Curtis**, Directed by Laura Colella; **Brilliant Mistakes**, Directed by Paul Brighton; **Dog Years**, Directed by Warren Sroka and Brent Makoto Willis; **Funeral Kings**, Directed by Kevin McManus & Matthew McManus; **Hit and Run** Directed by David Palmer and Dax Shepard; **Pursuit of Loneliness**, Directed by Laurence Thrush; **Shanghai Calling**, Directed by Daniel Hsia; **Shouting Secrets**, Directed by Korinna Sehinger; **VINYL**, Directed by Sara Sugarman; and **WOLF**, Directed by Ya'Ke Smith.



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The **RIIFF 2012 Documentary Films** include: **78 Days**, Directed by Jason Nardella
Along Recovery, Directed by Justin Springer; **Biba! One Island, 879 Votes**, Directed by Benjamin Bloodwell; Executive Producer Alex Gibney; **Cafeteria Man**, Directed by Richard Chisolm; **CO RAZ ZOSTALO ZAPISANE (Written in Ink)**, Directed by Martin Rath; **Dying Green**, Directed by Ellen Tripler; **EI Destello (The Flicker)**, Directed by Gabriel Szollosy; **The Eyes of Thailand**, Directed by Windy Borman; **A Girl Like Her**, Directed by Ann Fessler; **Good Karma \$1**, Directed by Jason Berger and Amy Laslett; **Gurei Zoun No Naka (In the Grey Zone)**, Directed by Ian Thomas Ash; **I Am Gay And Muslim**, Directed by Chris Belloni; **Jobriath A.D**, Directed by Kieran Turner; **Lost Years**, Directed by Kenda Gee and Ton Radford; **Love and Other Anxieties**, Directed by Lyda Kuth; **Magic Camp**, Directed by Judd Ehrlich; **Married and Counting**, Directed by Allan Piper; **Nantucket**, Directed by Ric Burns; **The Second Execution of Romell Broom**, Directed by Michael Verhoeven; **Valentino's Ghost**, Directed by Michael Singh; **Walking Merchandise: child trafficking and the snakehead trade**, Directed by Ethan Downing; **The White Picket Fence Project**, Directed by Marla Altschuler and Tamarin Kaplan.; and **Words of Witness**, Directed by Mai Iskander.

Many of the **RIIFF Short Films** screening at this year's Festival will be making their Premieres, among those are: **EI Acompañante (The Companion)**, Directed by Alvaro Delgado Aparicio
ACT OF MEMORY - A Christmas Story, Directed by Jack Ryder; **ASAD**, Directed by Bryan Buckley; **Beijing**, Directed by Christopher Messina; **CATERPILLAR**, Directed by David Field; **Csicska (Beast)**, Directed by Attila Till; **Deux Inconnus (The Strange Ones)**, Directed by Lauren Wolkstein; **Die Anderen Und Ich (The Others And Me)**, Directed by Aljoshia Horvat; **les dimanches de léa (Lea's Sundays)**, Directed by Yohann Kouam; **Dol (First Birthday)**, Directed by Andrew Ahn; **Dva**, Directed by Mickey Nedimovic; **Emily**, Directed by Benjamin Mathews; **En Boîte (Boxed)**, Directed by Mathieu PAQUIER; **First Kiss**, Directed by Charles Hood; **Friend Request Pending** Directed by Chris Foggin; **The Happy Ones**, Directed by Brandon Zuck; **Hatch**, Directed by Christoph Kuschnig; **I Lost My Birthday**, Directed by Déjà Bernhardt; **Is This a Joke?**, Directed by Tom Edmunds; **Jamón (Ham)**, Directed by Iria Lopez; **Joey**, Directed by David Forster; **Julian**, Directed by Matthew Moore; and **Last Man Out**, Directed by David M. Young; **A Conversation about Cheating with My Time Travelling Future Self**, Directed by Pornsak Pichetshote; **ANOSMIA**, Directed by Jacob LaMendola; **A Good Thing**, Directed by Mark Tobey; **Attachments**, Directed by Peter Mabrucco; **The Balcony Affair**, Directed by Jamie Cussen; **Barbie Boy**, Directed Nick Corporon; **Absence of Love**, Directed by Billy Gerard Frank;

Also, **Man in Fear**, Directed by William Jewell; **Mannen fra isødet (The Devil's Ballroom)**, Directed by Henrik Martin K. Dahlsbakken; **Memories**, Directed by Joseph Procopio; **The Men's Room**, Directed by Jane Pickett; **Migraine**, Directed by Matthew Bonifacio; **My Sweetheart**, Directed by Daniel Metge; **Neighbors**, Directed by Rachel Goldberg; **Nonna si deve asciugare (Grandma must get dry)**, Directed by Alfredo Covelli; **-La Part Céleste (On the Celestial Side)**, Directed by Thibaut GOBRY; **Queen**, Directed by Adam Rose; **Quinkin**, Directed by Michael Wannenmacher; **Revolution Reykjavik**, Directed by Ísöld Uggadóttir; **Rhonda's Party**, Directed by Ashley McKenzie; **The Runner (Ubuntu)**, Directed by Parker Ellerman; **Shabbat Dinner**, Directed by Michael Morgenstern; **Shanghai Strangers 非典情人**, Directed by Joan Chen; **She, Who Excels in Solitude**, Directed by Mako Kamitsuna; **Shhh**, Directed by Freddy Chavez Olmos and Shervin Shoghian; **Shoot the Moon**, Directed by Alexander Gaeta; **Three Sixty**, Directed by Daniel Mitchell; **Tout le monde dit je t'aime (Everyone Says I Love You)**, Directed by Michel Demoustier ; **Tracer Gun**, Directed by Paul Grellong; **The Voorman Problem**, Directed by Mark Gill; and **WORM**, Directed by Bert & Bertie



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And, **Abgestempelt** (*Punched*), Directed by Michael Rittmannsberger; **A Sunny Morning** by Jacob Proctor; **As you Were** Directed by Rene Frelle Petersen; **BELIEVEtheDANCE** Directed by Thomas Berg; **Delivery**, Directed by Amy Redford; **DxOne**, Directed by Dan Masucci; **Eileen Pratt**, Directed by Michael Kratochvil; **Exit**, Directed by Daniel Zimble; **FACE**, Directed by Christopher Deram; **The Farmer's Wife**, Directed by Francis Lee; **The Fifth Horseman**, Directed by Kari Barber; **Fight**, Directed by Steven Subotnick; **Glue**, Directed by Michal Lavi; **The Grand Design**, Directed by Samuel Bartlett; **Good Karma \$1**, Directed by Jason Berger; **Herriot Grace**, Directed by John Cullen; **Leader of the Pack**, Directed by Ari Costa; **Leave Not a Cloud Behind**, Directed by Pablo Gonzalez; **Lichtjahre (Light Years)** Directed by Florian Knittel; **Little Ones**, Directed by Marc Parees; **Lunch Date**, Directed by Sasha Collington; **Nani**, Directed by Justin Tipping; **Nina Del Tango**, Directed by Jason Eberly; **Overdue**, Directed by Arian Moayed; **Parallel**, Directed by Andrew R. Jones; **Performance Anxiety**, Directed by Reid Waterer; **Peter At The End**, Directed by Russ Lamoureux; **Picture Paris**, Directed by Brad Hall; **Piece of Cake**, Directed by Susan & Katherine Procopio; **Pride** Marc Saltarelli; **Private Sun**, Directed by Rami Alayan; **Reprise**, Directed by Shripriya Mahesh; **Rising Hope**, Directed by Milen Vitanov; **Shlomo Pussycat**, Directed by Michael Feinstein; **Small Time**, Directed by Ged Murray; **Detras Del Espejo**, Directed by Julio O. Ramos; **Calcutta Taxi**, Directed by Vikram Dasgupta; **Cowboys and Dissidents**, Directed by Will Maloney; **The Miracles on Honey Bee Hill**, Directed by Bob Pondillo; **MISSING**, Directed by Ewan McNicol; **Mr. Christmas**, Directed by Nick Palmer; **Quiet**, Directed by Lauren Fast; **Sanjiban**, Directed by Ben Pender-Cudlip; **Die Schaukel des Sargmachers (The swing of the coffin maker)**, Directed by Elmar Imanov; **Erik Zamani (Time of the Plums)**, Directed by Sezen Kayhan; **UNSAID**, Directed by Stevie Russell.

Animated films at the Festival include: **Abiogenesis**, Directed By Richard Mans; **The Boy in the Bubble**, Directed by Kealan O'Rourke with narration by *Alan Rickman*; **Brad & Gary**, Directed by Pierre Coffin; **Cadaver**, Directed by Jonah D. Ansell with the talents of *Christopher Lloyd, Kathy Bates*; **The Gruffalo's Child**, Directed by Uwe Heidschotter and Johannes Weiland;; **Machinehead**, Directed by Micah Gallagher; **The Man With The Stolen Heart**, Directed by Charlotte Boulay-Goldsmith with *Bill Nighy*; **MARIA MAGENTA**, Directed By Orlanda Laforet; **The Monster of Nix**, Directed by Rosto; **NURU**, Directed by Michael Palmaers; **SNAP**, Directed by Thomas G. Murphy; **Strange Fruit**, Directed by Neal Sopata; **A Tooth Tale**, Directed by Ron Fleischer; and **Zing**, Directed by Kyra Buschor and Cynthia Collins.

Sponsors for the 2012 Festival include *The Providence Journal, the Rhode Island Council on the Arts (RISCA), the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH), The Providence Phoenix, Sony, IMDB.com, Rule Boston Camera, Délégation du Québec à Boston, Tourism Québec, PMA Industries, Cox Media, Amtrak, The Vets, The Providence Tourism Council, the University of Rhode Island, The Harrington School of Communications, Roger Williams University, the RI Film & TV Office, Equity Action, Enterprise, Linchpin Design, Renaissance Providence Hotel, 12NTM Beverages, ZipCar, Sag/Indie, Miamore Communications, the City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.*

ABOUT THE FLICKERS ARTS COLLABORATIVE:

Flickers' mission goes way beyond the Festival. Flickers works to maximize the effect that a limited number of resources can generate and help to create participation and collaboration within the local



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community. It is committed to innovation and allowing people from any background, regardless of socioeconomic status, to experience the medium of film. Flickers partners with arts organizations, colleges, universities, RI public schools, and leaders of community development. Its various programs are designed to benefit the larger community.

Flickers' **Community Outreach Program** has RIFF donate tickets for opening night and Festival events to the 70+ non-profits it partners with annually. In 2011, that translated to over 1,200 tickets throughout the Festival. College film programs are also provided with tickets, passes and scholarships for their students. Organizations may freely sell tickets for their own use, benefitting the larger community, or donate then to new audiences or the employee/staff of each respective agency. Through the **Adopt a Film Program** non-profit agencies can attend film screenings that are in line with the organization's specific mission during the festival free of charge. This benefits the organization and allows the audience to connect with non-profit groups, and those involved with the filmmaking process. Flickers believes that these collaborative efforts help to promote cultural understanding and spur philanthropy in the larger community.

Flickers offers **Youth Mentorship Opportunities** where young people can intern and hold leadership positions at RIFF throughout the year and experience marketing, planning and running the festival all the while gaining an in-depth perspective on the festival itself. Three years ago, Flickers introduced the **RIFF Youth Film Jury Program**, which has successfully allowed young scholars from the region to discover the Festival, meet filmmakers and be actual participants in the awards selection.

Another successful program created by Flickers is The **7 Day PSA Competition**. This community outreach competition challenges filmmakers to use their creative skills and to donate their time and talent for a worthy cause. Teams compete by writing, shooting and editing TV public service announcements for one of three pre-selected local non-profits who provide needed services to the local community, but could not afford to pay to have a broadcast quality PSA produced. The time frame for the work to be organized, shot and completed is 7 days. Local media sponsors in each region agree to air the winning PSAs for one year, one spot per non-profit. In 2011, three such competitions took place: Rhode Island, Maine and Boston. As part of its support for participating filmmakers, Flickers submitted the top winner from each competition for regional Emmy consideration. Last year all three submissions received Emmy nominations. This year, the top winner from the Boston competition, "**My Life, My Choice**" took home the Emmy. The PSA was directed, shot and edited by Chuck Green, Brian Galford and Michael Yip members of the New England Media Coalition.

The **7DayPSA Competition** was created by **Duncan Putney**, actor/author /director and a member of the RIFF Advisory Board.

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, but only in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401- 861-4445; or write RIFF, 83 Park Street, Suite 1, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org.

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