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FLICKERS ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS 2017 SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

The Rhode Island International Screenplay Competition received 463 submissions from throughout the United States and across the globe

(PROVIDENCE, RI) • **Barry Brennessel** from Silver Spring, MD is the **Best Screenplay Grand Prize Winner** for this year's **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) Screenplay Competition**. Barry's winning screenplay is entitled "Anh Sang."

George T. Marshall, RIIFF Executive Director/CEO, made the announcement of the 2017 awards that featured **463 entries** in competition. From these, **41 scripts** were selected as semi-finalists and **14 scripts** were selected **Finalists** by an international team of adjudicators.

The "**Anh Sang**" storyline: French Indochina, 1917. Two teenage boys discover their feelings for one another transcend mere friendship. But the hardships under French colonial rule, and the effects of the Great War, alter their lives forever.

"Barry Brennessel's script is both an intimate love story and an epic depiction of French Indochina in the throes of World War I. The script is a defining work that chronicles an often-underrepresented perspective in history." said Shawn Quirk, RIIFF Program Director.

"What an amazing year for storytelling and our screenplay competition. This year's entries were inventive and re-defining. They were scored on criteria that included character, dialogue, setting, plot, structure and technique," added Quirk. "We reviewed the largest entry base in competition's history making for difficult decision-making on the part of our international group of judges.

"After extensive and careful deliberation, prize winners were chosen in seven distinct categories: Best Screenplay, Best International, Vortex Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror, Best LGBTQ, Spotlight on New England, Best Short Screenplay and Best Television Pilot," Quirk noted.

"Our sincere congratulations to this year's winners," stated George T. Marshall. "This competition has introduced us to some of the world's brightest and most talented writers in the craft."

THE 2017 PRIZE WINNERS:

BEST SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Anh Sang | Barry Brennessel, Author | Silver Spring, MD

FIRST PLACE:

Dietrich Danzig | John Pisano-Thomsen, Author | Toronto, ON

INTERNATIONAL SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Open Letter | Arya A Menon, Author | Mumbai, India

FIRST PRIZE:

The Pardon | Anthony Maddalena, Author | London, UK

VORTEX HORROR/SCI-FI SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Beasts and Children | Bryan Ott, Author | Millbrae, CA

FIRST PRIZE:

13 Minutes | Yvonne Paulin, Author | Stamford, CT

JAMES L. SEAVOR LGBTQ SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Secondhand Heart | Amber Nardolillo, Author | West Warwick, RI

FIRST PRIZE:

Small Steps in Black Birkenstocks | Alexia Kosmider, Marianne Messina, Authors | Providence, RI

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ENGLAND

GRAND PRIZE:

A Town Too Small For Dreaming | Kelly Farrell, Author | Chapel Hill, NC

FIRST PRIZE:

Hernandez Square | Robert Lucas, Author | Providence, RI

BEST TELEVISION PILOT SCRIPT

GRAND PRIZE :

Land Most Loved | Francisco Mendoza, Author | Brooklyn, NY

FIRST PRIZE:

Cracked Ceiling | Rebecca Mesple, Author | Fort Collins, CO

BEST SHORT SCRIPT

GRAND PRIZE:

Princess Pussy | Renee Sevier, Author | Collingswood, NJ

FIRST PRIZE:

Part-Time Doorman | Jan Lauren Greenfield, Author | New York, NY

Prizes awarded to the winners of the screenplay competition (which vary with the specific screenplay category) include: 1 Script Listing and 1 Magazine Listing from **InkTip**; Final Draft software featuring **Final Draft Screenwriting Suites**; and Passes to the **2018 Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** and the **ScriptBiz™ Screenwriter's Workshop**.

The Best Screenplay Grand Prize winner will be brought to Providence to attend the **2018 ScriptBiz program**, where their screenplay will be a central focus of the program, plus receive a private script consultation and an official award on RIFF's Opening Night Celebration on the

stage of the 3,300-seat Providence Performing Arts Center. Lodging and transportation will also be provided.

ABOUT THE 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. 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, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Live Action, Animation and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and the Canadian Screen Awards. 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 **August 7-12, 2018** at The **Providence Performing Arts Center** (PPAC) and **The Vets**, please visit our website at **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call **401.861.4445**.

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