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FLICKERS' VORTEX SCI-FI, FANTASY, AND HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FILM AWARDS FOR 20TH SEASON

65 films from 15 countries vied for adjudicated genre awards

PROVIDENCE, RI (October 28, 2019) – A phantasmagoric symphony of international genre films were given their due with the wrap of the **20th Annual Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Film Festival** through adjudicated awards. The Festival celebrated and showcased imagination and creativity in filmmaking and included 11 World and U.S. Premieres. In all, **65 films** were selected from over 3,000 genre submissions, representing 15 countries and presented at **19 locations**. This year's Festival was planned, developed and curated by **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director and creator of the annual genre Festival with **Shawn Quirk**, RIFF Program Director.

This year's Festival included a return of its popular "*H.P. Lovecraft Walking Tour*" over a four-day period presented in collaboration with the RI Historical Society and the Brown University Film Forum (BUFF), a Free Screening of the silent classic, "*Nosferatu*" with live musical accompaniment by the David Tessier Band, free in-school programs, an expanded *Campus Connections* series that brings free Festival programming to area Colleges and Universities, five free Forums that look behind-the-scenes at creating genre films in the Ocean State, special programming in the RI PBS series, "*doubleFEATURE*," and the "*Gods & Goddesses*" Halloween Wrap Party at the Rooftop at the Providence G.

The 2019 festival included screenings in Providence at the new Acoustic Java Café & Microcinema, Providence College, Johnson and Wales University at two locations, Brown University, Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI, the Tiverton Public Library, the North Kingstown Free Public Library, the Warwick Public Library, Lincoln Public Library, West Warwick Public Library, North Scituate Public Library, Greenville Public Library, and the Rooftop of the Providence G.

Additional screenings for students took place at the Beacon Charter School in Woonsocket, Westery High School, and the Jacqueline M. Walsh School for the Performing Arts in Pawtucket.

The full schedule for this year's Festival can be found here: <http://www.rifilmfest.org> and <http://prog.tsharp.xyz/en/riiff/20/date/all>

"It's an amazing achievement that we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year. Our decision in 2015 to expand our programming to sc-fi and fantasy films, along with our horror film

entries, has allowed us to create an incredible showcase of truly unique films" said **Shawn Drywa**, Vortex Program Director.

"Vortex has always prided itself on showcasing the best genre films from the independent film community and this year was no exception. From Spain to Iran and France to the UK, these films represent the vanguard of genre filmmaking from across the globe, and showcase a rising generation of filmmakers, who are redefining genre films for the next generation of cinephiles."

"From our ongoing educational outreach with area colleges and universities, free library and museum screenings, high school-based programs, to a series of master classes on filmmaking and conversations on the film industry with noted leaders, this year's Vortex Film Festival expanded its offerings to engage audiences across the state" noted **Shawn Quirk**, RIFF's Program Director.

WINNERS OF TOP PRIZES FOR THE 2019 FESTIVAL:

BEST FEATURE SCI-FI FILM:

GRAND PRIZE:

"Volition" | Directed by: Tony Dean Smith | Canada, 2019

FIRST PRIZE:

"Falter" | Directed by: Peter Meining and Harriet Maria Meining | Germany, 2018

BEST FEATURE HORROR FILM:

GRAND PRIZE:

"Star Light" | Directed by: Lee Cummings and Mitchell Altieri | United States, 2019

FIRST PRIZE:

"Artik" | Directed by: Tom Botchii Skowronski | United States, 2019

BEST HORROR SHORT:

GRAND PRIZE:

"Madame" | Directed by: Garth Jennings | France, 2018

FIRST PRIZE:

"The Mime" | Directed by: Dan Allen | United Kingdom, 2019

BEST SCI-FI SHORT:

GRAND PRIZE:

"The Last Well" | Directed by: Filip Filkovic | Croatia and France, 2018

FIRST PRIZE:

"Eternity" | Directed by: Anna Sobolevksa | Ukraine, 2018

BEST FANTASY SHORT:

GRAND PRIZE

"A Purgatory Story" | Directed by: Tom Albanese | UNITED STATES, 2019

FIRST PRIZE:

"Acide" | Directed by: Just Philippot | France, 2018

BEST ANIMATION:

GRAND PRIZE:

"Wild Love" | Directed by: Paul Autric, Quentin Camus, Maryka Laudet, Léa Georges, Zoé Sottiaux, and Corentin Yvergnaux | France, 2018

FIRST PRIZE:

"They Hunt" | Directed by: Rhys Byfield | United States, 2018

BEST DIRECTOR:

Fran Cassonova – **"Something In The Darkness"** | Spain, 2017

DIRECTORIAL DISCOVERY AWARD:

Jesse Mittelstadt | **"Flyby"** | United States, 2019

H.P. LOVECRAFT AWARD:

"Backwoods" | Directed by: Ryan Mackfall | United Kingdom, 2018

This year's Vortex programming was sponsored by the *Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival Rhode Island Film & Television Office, The Providence Tourism Council, ACT/Providence, Cox Media, WLNE ABC6, Eurochannel, RISCA, Brown University Film Forum (BUFF), WSBE RI PBS, Providence College, Johnson and Wales University, Acoustic Java Café & Microcinema, Narragansett Brewing Company, the Rooftop at the Providence G, the RI Historical Society, the RWU School of Humanities, Arts and Education, RWU Department of Communication, Graphic Design and Web Development, THE RWU HAWK'S HERALD, The RWU Inter-Residence Hall Association (IRHA) and the RWU American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA).*

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 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 and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 10 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 4-9 2020** at **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call **401.861.4445**.