

# WHAT'S NEW AT RIIFF 2007

## KEY FESTIVAL THEMES for 2007:

- **PRESERVING OUR PAST:** In order to help spur the **Restoration of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center**, RIIFF will be adding a **RESTORATION FEE** (50 cents) to all tickets and passes sold at all locations during the Festival.
- **DARE TO DREAM: THE POWER OF IMAGINATION:** What defines man's creativity, is it in the heart or in the head? Where can imagination lead in the realm of the possible?
- **THE FUTURE IS TODAY:** Partnering with the **Sierra Club** and **Save the Bay**, RIIFF will examine what makes for a "**Green Festival**" along with Global Ecological Awareness in a cinematic sidebar.
- **WHERE IS YOUR HEART AT?** What power does an individual have in our increasingly complex world? Is there a place for **Personal Ethics, Social Responsibility, Morality and Matters of Conscience**? What is the role and value of individual action? We promise no easy answers, but we will provoke thought.

## FESTIVAL EVENTS:

- **RIIFF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ADOPT-A-FILM PROGRAMS;** designed to provide fundraising and marketing opportunities for non-profit organizations in the greater Rhode Island region. RIIFF tickets are provided to Rhode Island non-profits to be used for their fundraising purposes. Participating non-profits keep 100% of what they generate.
- **APPROXIMATELY 280 INDIVIDUAL FILM TITLES TO BE SCREENED** at this year's film festival at multiple venues in Providence, Newport, Kingston, Narragansett, Pawtucket, Tiverton; Westerly and Warwick. These include the Columbus Theatre Arts Center; Providence Performing Arts Center; the Cable Car Cinema; Feinstein IMAX Providence Place; Bank of America City Center; URI Feinstein Campus Theatre; Providence Public Library; Providence Black Repertory Theatre; Westminster Park (Providence); the CCRI Newport Campus; the Courthouse Center for the Arts (Kingston); The Pier Cinema (Narragansett); Slater Mill Park and the Blackstone Valley Visitor's Center (Pawtucket) and the Warwick Art Museum (Warwick).
- **FILMS TO BE PRESENTED AT RIIFF HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD:** Over 70 countries will be presented. From an entry base of over 2,500 films, RIIFF 2007 films have come from Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Romania, Israel, Croatia, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, The Netherlands, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Afghanistan, Chile, Bosnia, Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Russia, Sweden, Taiwan, Finland, Poland, South Africa, Nigeria, India and the United States, to name a few.
- **OPENING NIGHT FILM SCREENING** and **GALA** at the restored **Providence Performing Arts Center**, 220 Weybosset Street, Providence. The events for the evening are listed below:

### **OFFICIAL RED CARPET PRE-OPENING RECEPTION**

***Meet and speak with this year's visiting filmmakers and special guests, at an exclusive cocktail party.***

The pre-opening invitation only Party will focus on film as an international medium of expression. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. Our host for this special party is Lisa Churchville, President/CEO, WJAR TV 10. The event will take place in the Marquee Room. Catering is by Ellen Loconto

Catering. Music by jazz pianist, Lois Vaughan. A limited number of tickets for this event are available \$100.

#### **FILM FESTIVAL GALA PRESENTATION**

##### ***Salute to the Art of the Short Film***

Since RIIFF is the only New England Festival that serves as a qualifier for the Short Film Academy Award, it seemed appropriate to open this year's Festival with a showcase of some of the best examples of world shorts. Our opening night is a partial fund-raiser for the Patricia Neal Scholarship Fund. For 2007, we will present our screenings in 35mm film on PPAC's 50 foot screen. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

#### **CELEBRATION 11: RIIFF GALA OPENING PARTY**

Following our Gala premiere screening, everyone is welcome to join us for a night of festivities! We'll be paying tribute to our visiting filmmakers from around the globe. Chat with old friends, meet some new ones; plan your week at the Festival and celebrate the launch of the 11th Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival. The location will be the PPAC lobby area. New this year will be a taste of Providence with catering by *Biltmore Catering, Blaze, Pizza Pieer, Efendi's, India, Jessie's at Atwells, , Fresh City, Nick's, Schrodgers*. Refreshments by Tommy Bahama Rum, Harpoon Beer, Empire Soda. Flowers by Jephry's of Broadway. The event begins at 9:00 p.m. and tickets are \$35. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased on line <http://www.film-festival.org/ticketspasses.php>

- **SCRIPTBIZ™**, When: August 6, 2007. Got a great idea for a movie script, but don't know where to begin? Or have you finished that masterpiece, but no clue what to do next? Then ScriptBiz is your answer. ScriptBiz is a day long workshop that covers the nuts and bolts of being a scriptwriter. The RIIFF ScriptBiz is now affiliated with Emerson College's Screenwriting Certificate Program and designed to guide writers not only through the creative process of writing, but ways to promote a screenplay to filmmakers through effective networking with tips on how to make a compelling pitch.
- **RHODE ISLAND FILM FORUM**, When: August 8-9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (two day program) at the URI Feinstein Campus, Providence that addresses the ins, outs and technology of shooting a film in Rhode Island. The **Rhode Island Film Forum** is designed to provide a networking platform, spur dialogue and get answers to your questions from those who make decisions. Programming includes, **Why Rhode Island Is Right For Your Film; Rhode Island Film & Television Tax Credit; Film & Entertainment Law 101; A Guide To Post-Production; Film Financing & Distribution; Marketing & Finding Your Audience;** and **Using The Web To Build A Portfolio** More than 30 presenters from the film industry will participate.
- **SPECIAL FILM SCREENING EVENTS:** Many of the films that will be screening at RIIFF will be **World** and **United States Premieres**. This means that filmmakers with their cast and crews will be in attendance. Parties, marketing events and all manners of community outreach will be taking place in a short span throughout the capital city of Providence. Here is one such example tied to the World Premiere of "**From The 50 Yard Line.**"

(Information as of 7/6/07): Due to the overwhelming support of the message of their film, the filmmaker, Doug Lantz and the crew of Blake House Media, Inc have garnered quite a fan base that stretches across the country and worldwide. On August 6th, they are planning a lunch time "**Concert in the Park in Support of Music Education**" in Providence. (*The location*

and times are currently being worked out.) They have already confirmed a Big Band Jazz group from the University of Rhode Island, the Portsmouth High School Marching Band, and the percussion ensemble from Centerville High School - *featured in the film*. (The latter is currently raising funds to bring the kids to Rhode Island.) There is also the possibility of a high school marching band traveling up from the Boston area that wants to participate as well. *This will be a free event open to the public.*

Additionally, The orchestral compositions which make up a majority of the soundtrack of the film were graciously donated for use in the film by Grammy nominated Peter Boyer. Peter is a native Rhode Islander, born and raised in Providence. Through his connections with Rhode Island College, a Brass Quintet play in the lobby of the Premiere of the film to set the mood and entertain waiting audience members.

- **“MADE IN RHODE ISLAND”** featuring the Awards program and top films from the **48 Hour Film Festival** plus local short films reflecting the **“Best of the Ocean State;”** All part of the **RIIFF CLOSING FILM SCREENING** at **Columbus Theatre Arts Center**, 270 Broadway, Providence, on Sunday, August 12th.

- **“STARS UNDER THE STARS”** Outdoor Screenings throughout the summer; multiple locations. Including:

**Special Free Screenings** of two newly restored films by Elvis Presley: **“Jailhouse Rock”** and **“Viva Las Vegas”** at Slater Mill Museum's Park in Pawtucket and Westminster Park in Providence

- **WEEKLY FORUMS ON FILMMAKING** and New Technology at Borders Bookstore, Providence Place Mall at 7:00 p.m. running from July through late August, then monthly throughout the year:

Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **MARKETING YOUR FILM AND SCRIPT IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

From blogs to podcasting to digital downloads and online competitions, what does the future hold for artists who want to break into the entertainment industry. Join us for a spirited panel discussion that looks at cutting edge and traditional means to get out your message. Some things might surprise you. *Featuring Toni Marie Pennacchia of Spoiler Alert Radio BRS 88.1; Jim Vickers, Editor, Motif Magazine, Jamie Benti, Image Icon Entertainment, and Jo C. Goode, freelance writer.*

Tuesday, July 31<sup>th</sup>

#### **THE ART OF THE SHORT FILM**

Now that you have a degree in film or media, what do you do with that skill set? How do you find work and how insure that your unique voice is heard? For many, the road to breaking into the industry has come from the production of short films. No longer relegated to the dustbin of “paying one's dues” and “learning a craft;” shorts have taken on a new life of popularity and have entered the mainstream. So how do you produce a short that is successful? What tools do you need and where do you take your completed work? Learn these answers and more from *Kevin Anderton of Midnight Chimes Productions who has made 67 successful shorts; and Bill Smyth, Producer for WCVB TV 5 in Boston and independent filmmaker.*

Tuesday, August 14<sup>st</sup>

#### **SHAPING A DOCUMENTARY: MAKING A FILM WITH A NEW ENGLAND FLAVOR**

With its rich history, New England is awash with stories that touch the core of the American experience. Learn what it's like to shape and craft a documentary about the life of a New England original: Andre Dubus; whose stories celebrate human impulses and tenderness. Dubus' work includes "In The Bedroom" and "We Don't Live Here Anymore, and touch on universal themes that transcend the region. Meet award-winning author, now turned filmmaker, **Edward J. Delaney**, who discusses his premiere work "**The Times Were Never So Bad: The Life of Andre Dubus.**" Learn what inspired its undertaking; how it was funded; and how the film was developed.

- **RIIFF ANNUAL AWARDS**

Each year, RIFF Awards are presented to honor outstanding filmmakers. Awards to be given at this year's festival include: RIFF Humanitarian, Creative Vision, Crystal Image, Lifetime Achievement. Past recipients include Kim Chan, Seymour Cassell, Blake Edwards, Patricia Neal, Rosa von Praunheim, Elaine Lorillard, Michael Showalter, Zach Braff, and Danny Trejo. Past Attendees of the festival include: Stephen Collins, Julie Andrews, Andrew McCarthy, Billy Gilman, Steve Buscemi and the above-mentioned artists. The awards to be presented this year:

- **GEORGE M. COHAN AMBASSADOR AWARD (TBA)**

- Presented 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.

- **ROGER WILLIAMS INDEPENDENT VOICE AWARD**

- 2007 Recipient: Christine Vachon**, *filmmaker and Brown University graduate*

- 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.

- **2006 AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

- **Cicely Tyson, Actor: RIFF's 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Legendary Caribbean-American Actress, **Cicely Tyson** received the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 2006 **Rhode Island International Film Festival** ("RIIFF"). Ms. Tyson was nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award for her performance in *Southern Comfort* (1972); she has also won two Emmy Awards for Best Actress (*The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*) and Outstanding Supporting Actress (*Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*).

- **Michael Corrente, Director: RIFF Creative Vision Award**

- The list of Rhode Island filmmakers who have found success in Hollywood and international media circles has been steadily growing as the Ocean State finds itself becoming a New England film mecca. But there is still one name that stands about the rest: director/producer/writer/actor, **Michael Corrente**; the recipient of the 2006 **Creative Vision Award**, The Creative Vision Award is presented annually to an artist who has made a significant contribution to the arts. The award was presented at the RIFF Opening Night Gala by filmmaker and fellow-Rhode Islander, Peter Farrelly.

- **BETWEEN TAKES AFTERNOON INDUSTRY FORUMS** with themes relating to the business of film

- **A CONVERSATION WITH...** (an industry leader, TBA). A relaxed way to meet and discover what it's like working in the business.

#### 2007 SIGNATURE FILMS (descriptions at end of document)

**"Suffering Man's Charity"** directed by Alan Cumming  
**"Death At A Funeral"** directed by Frank Oz  
**"Across The Universe"** directed by Julie Taymor  
**"Intervention"** directed by Mary McGuckian  
**"The Listening Project"** directed Dominic Howes  
**"Franz Kafka's Inaka Isha" (Franz Kafka's A COUNTRY DOCTOR)** directed by Koji YAMAMURA  
**"Matters of Life and Death"** directed by Joseph Mazzello  
**"Tie a Yellow Ribbon"** directed by Joy Dietrich  
**"The Union: The Business Behind Getting High"** directed by Brett Harvey  
**"Tell"** directed by Tom Murray  
**"American Fork"** directed by Chris Bowman  
**"Election Day"** directed by Katy Chevigny  
**"A Four Letter Word,"** directed by Casper Andreas  
**"Back Soon"** directed by Rob Williams  
**"The Year of Paper"** directed by Nikki Parker, Kelly Rouse  
**"Take"** directed by Charles Oliver  
**"The Memory Thief"** directed by Gil Kofman  
**"Chuan Yue Gao Yuan"** (Across the Plateau) sub. by Harriet Pike  
**"Dalai Lama Renaissance"** directed by Khashyar Darvich  
**"Mississippi Son"** directed by Don Wilson  
**"From The 50 Yard Line"** directed by Doug Lantz  
**"The Listening Project"** directed by Dominic Howes, Joel Weber  
**"Escape from Suburbia: Beyond the American Dream"** directed by Gregory Greene  
**"Who Loves the Sun"** directed by Mark Bissonette  
**"Love and Marriage"** directed by Robert Wagner  
**"Her Best Move"** directed by Norm Hunter  
**"Man from Earth"** directed by Richard Schenkman  
**"Partition"** directed by Vic Sarin  
**"Soldiers of Conscience"** directed by Catherine Ryan, Gary Weimberg  
**"Red Without Blue"** directed by Brooke Sebold,  
**"Two Minutes Later"** directed by Robert Gaston  
**"The Times Were Never So Bad: The Life of Andre Dubus"** directed by Edward J. Delaney  
**"The Dhamma Brothers"** directed by Andrew Kukura

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS:

**"Ticks!"** directed by Mary Healey Jamiel  
**"Red Terror On The Amber Coast"** directed by Kenneth Gumbert  
**"Old House Soul"** directed by Don Manley and Michel Schtakleff

#### FROM THE VAULTS:

**"Speedy"** directed by Harold Lloyd  
**"Mary Poppins"** directed by Robert Stevenson  
**"Viva Las Vegas"** directed by George Sidney  
**"Jailhouse Rock"** directed by Richard Thorp

#### FILM SIDEBARS:

- **Films for Families (FFF)**

- **Golden Age of Cinema Saluting the Silent Film Era**
- **Providence GLBT Film Festival**
- **New England Student Film Festival**
- **KidsEye™ International Film Festival**
- **Providence Film Festival** (local work from the New England region)
- **Providence World Film Festival** (focus on Spanish and Portuguese Language Films)  
partnering with the Providence Latin American Film Festival
- **Providence Jewish Film Festival** partnering with the Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival
- **East-West Crossroads: Asian Film Festival** (Films from China and Japan)
- **Jubilé Franco Américain** (films from Canada and France)
- **Roving Eye Documentary Film Festival** (introduced in April 2006) continues with  
during RIIFF with important documentary work from around the globe.
- **Vortex Sci Fi & Fantasy Film Festival** introduced with RIIFF 2007 with screenings scheduled for  
the Fall and Winter.
- **RI Student Film Festival:** Screenings of student films from Providence College and the URI  
Visualizations Film Festival

#### **AFFILIATIONS:**

The Sierra Club  
 French Consulate  
 Quebec Consulate  
 Chinese Consulate  
 Swiss Consulate  
 RI Jewish Film Festival  
 Save the Bay  
 RI Pride

#### **SCREENING LOCATIONS:**

##### **Providence:**

- Providence Performing Arts Center
- Columbus Theatre Arts Center
- Cable Car Cinema
- Feinsein IMAX Providence Place
- Providence Public Library
- URI Feinsein Providence Campus Theatre
- Westminster Park
- Providence Black Repertory Company

##### **Narragansett:**

- The Pier Cinema

##### **Newport:**

- CCRI Newport Campus

##### **Pawtucket:**

- Slater Mill Museum Park
- Pawtucket Visitor's Center

##### **Warwick:**

- Warwick Art Museum

##### **Kingston:**

- Courthouse Center for the Arts

## 2007 SIGNATURE FILMS (descriptions at end of document)

### **"Suffering Man's Charity" directed by Alan Cumming**

A dark, genre-defying comedy. John Vandermark (Alan Cumming) has taken in a struggling writer Sebastian (David Boreanaz). When John discovers that Sebastian has been using him, he turns the tables on his young tenant with unexpected results. With cameos from Anne Heche, Carrie Fisher and Karen Black.

### **"Death At A Funeral" directed by Frank Oz**

There's nothing like a death to spoil a good funeral. In this raucous British comedy, with echoes of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Gosford Park*, a dysfunctional British upper class family gathers to honor their late patriarch, but things go terribly wrong from the start ending with all hell breaking loose. This riotous tale follows many twists and turns as it works its way towards its hallucinogenic, raucous, crowd-pleasing conclusion.

**Principal Cast:** Peter Dinklage, Matthew Macfadyen, Rupert Graves, Alan Tudyk, Ewan Bremner

### **"Across The Universe" directed by Julie Taymor**

A dock worker Jude (Jim Sturgess) travels to America in the 1960s to find his estranged father. There he falls in love with sheltered American teenager Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood). When her brother Max (Joe Anderson) is drafted to fight in the Vietnam War, they become involved in peace activism.

An original musical film, *Across The Universe* is a fictional love story set in the 1960s amid the turbulent years of anti-war protest, the struggle for free speech and civil rights, mind exploration and rock and roll. At once gritty, whimsical and highly theatrical, the story moves from high schools and universities in Massachusetts, Princeton and Ohio to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, the Detroit riots, Vietnam and the dockyards of Liverpool. A combination of live action and painted and three-dimensional animation, the film is paired with many Beatles songs that defined the time.

### **"Intervention" directed by Mary McGuckian**

#### **WORLD PREMIERE**

It's a mad world - so who's to say who or what is crazy? Out of order? Or not normal? Where do we draw the fine line between what is 'funny mad' or just 'plain insane'? When does a disorder define as dysfunctional? *Intervention* turns the commonly-held concept of what is unacceptably 'crazy' on its hilarious head - and enlightens the world of rehabilitation, relapse and recovery with a little laughter, debunking the Anglo-American culture of 'therapy' along the way. **Principal Cast:** Jennifer Tilly, Andie MacDowell, Russell Means, Colm Feore, Rupert Graves, and Charles Dance.

### **"The Listening Project" directed Dominic Howes**

85 min. USA, 2007

#### **WORLD PREMIERE**

The Listening Project is a captivating 85-minute cinematic journey around the world in search of the meaning of America. Filmed in 14 countries, this documentary follows four unique Americans as they travel from a Shanghai hip-hop club to a war-ravaged Kabul neighborhood to a village at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in each place asking "what do you think of America?" In beautifully-photographed locales, we encounter fascinating and diverse characters who share not only the impact of the U.S. on their lives, but also their perspectives on crumbling empires, human fellowship, and what it means to be a citizen in a globalized world.



**“Franz Kafka's Inaka Isha” (Franz Kafka's A COUNTRY DOCTOR) directed by Koji YAMAMURA  
US Premiere**

A hapless country doctor describes with breathless urgency a nighttime summons to attend a young patient. Events soon take on a surreal aspect as “unearthly horses” transport him instantaneously to the bedside. The doctor, preoccupied with personal distractions and grievances against those he is employed to care for, fails to find what is revealed to be a vile, fatal wound. He is humiliated by the villagers, who are “always expecting the impossible from the doctor,” and doomed to an endless return trip, losing everything.

*Koji YAMAMURA works have been shown around the world, and awarded numerous awards. His film, “Atama Yama” (Mt.Head) was nominated for the Oscar for the 75th Academy Awards and awarded Grand Prix for ANNECY 2003. His retrospective screenings have been held in 17 countries.*

**“Matters of Life and Death” directed by Joseph Mazzello**

There was no warning, no planning, not even a real will. After the unexpected death of their parents, three siblings desperately try to maintain control of their lives, forced into adulthood by a national tragedy. They are left alone in the aftermath, overwhelmed by their individual grief, struggling to mend the broken remains of their family. “Matters of Life and Death” marks the directorial debut of actor Joseph Mazzello (Jurassic Park, Simon Birch, The River Wild) and stars Oscar Nominee David Strathairn, Rachael Leigh Cook, Joseph Mazzello, and Daniel Gillies.

**“Tie a Yellow Ribbon” directed by Joy Dietrich**

*Featuring Kim Jiang, Jane Kim, Patrick Heusinger, Ian Wen, Theresa Ngo, Gregory Walter, Deana Jacobsen, Michael J. Bressman, Henny Russell, Eva Wu, Yoshiro Kono, Zach Roerig, Mimi Hong, Vincent Piazza, Eve Kaminsky, Johnny Wu.*

A distraught young Korean woman wanders the streets of New York. It could be anywhere, for life is in a haze. Her current roommate has more or less kicked her out of their apartment. It's just the latest abandonment for Jenny, who was sent away by her adoptive parents when she was 14 for a supposed indiscretion with her American brother. She is unique, and alone.

Writer-director Dietrich set out to make a film about the experience of young Asian-American women in the U.S. It's a sullen and moody work, inspired by statistics of depression and suicide amongst the aforementioned demographic. It's also elegant and touching.

Jenny finds a new roommate, but just as she begins to explore new relationships with the other Asian-Americans in her building, her haunted past won't let her go. Using gorgeous location photography in tandem with an evocative soundtrack, Dietrich gives the film a lyrical quality, as we drift in and out of Jenny's dreams. The deeper we dig, though, the more we find her fears and desires are universal. It's a personal and unique vision, but it is no longer alone.

**“The Union: The Business Behind Getting High” directed by Brett Harvey  
US PREMIERE**

BC's illegal marijuana trade industry has evolved into a business giant, dubbed by some involved as 'The Union'. Commanding upwards of \$7 billion Canadian annually, The

Union's roots stretch far and wide. With up to 85% of 'BC Bud' being exported to the United States, the trade has become an international issue. Who are the players, and when do their motives become questionable?

Follow filmmaker Adam Scorgie as he demystifies the underground market and brings to light how an industry can function while remaining illegal. Through growers, police officers, criminologists, economists, doctors, politicians and pop culture icons, Scorgie examines the cause and effect nature of the business behind getting high. Nobody's innocent in this exploration of an industry that may be profiting more by being illegal.

**“Tell” directed by Tom Murray**

USA, 2007, 83 min, Video

Documentarian Tom Murray (the maker of last year's *Almost Myself*) returns to NewFest with another timely film exploring the US military's shameful “don't ask, don't tell” policy. As in his previous films, Murray puts a human face to the issue by interviewing a diverse range of LGBT would-be soldiers and veterans, as well as representatives from organizations fighting for an end to “don't ask, don't tell,” and for equal treatment and respect to those who have already proudly served. With no real end in sight to the US's current military involvement abroad, *Tell* adds to the debate by questioning why willing and able potential recruits are kept from serving based on institutionalized discriminatory practices.

**“American Fork” directed by Chris Bowman**

In a supermarket in the armpit of the Mountain West, an enormous grocery clerk scribbles poetry. Tracy Orbison (Hubbel Palmer) is a dreamer. His outsized sense of wonder fuels a series of tragicomic adventures. First Tracy enrolls in an acting class, falling under the spell of the arrogant instructor, a Z-list actor named Truman Hope (William Baldwin). Next he befriends a young bagboy, Kendis Cooley (Vincent Caso), and begins a new project: mentoring Kendis and his skate-punk friends. He urges the teens to give up their surly ways and get high on life; the gang's mean-eyed ringleader, Shawn (Nick Lashaway), has entirely different plans. At home, Tracy fends off Agnes, his God-fearing, self-loathing mother (Academy Award nominee Kathleen Quinlan), while his sister Peggy (24's Mary Lynn Rajs Kub), a perennial lonely heart, at long last finds somebody to love. Through it all, Tracy struggles to pass his driver's exam, lose 'about ten pounds,' and win fame beyond his working-class job.

**“Election Day” directed by Katy Chevigny**

*Election Day* follows a dozen voters over a single day—November 2, 2004—from dawn until long past midnight. An ex-felon in New York votes for the first time in his life at age 50, a factory worker in Oklahoma debates gay marriage with his co-workers, and a frenzied pollworker in Ohio tries to maintain her sanity amidst chaotic lines of voters. While the mainstream media focuses on “red states” vs. “blue states,” *Election Day* moves beyond the horserace to look at the stories of the electorate itself. Through scenes that are humorous, outrageous, and eye opening, a day that begins with a profound sense of hope gives way to an unsettling view of American democracy.

**“A Four Letter Word,” directed by Casper Andreas**

Casper Andreas' debut feature, *Slutty Summer*, had its RI premiere at RIFF 2004, so we are excited to welcome him back to the festival with his sexy, appealing new romantic comedy, “A Four Letter Word,” as one of our Centerpiece screenings. “A Four Letter Word” follows an ensemble of characters in their daily lives in New York City, navigating sex, love and relationships. At the center of it all is Luke (Jesse Archer), an attractive and

witty Chelsea boy who works at a sex shop with the cute gay activist, Zeke (Cory Grant). Zeke (who, incidentally, swears by hot, naked yoga) believes there's more to Luke than he lets on, masking it through one-night stands and a party lifestyle. Luke meets Stephen (Charlie David, Dante's Cove) at a bar, but the hunky self-proclaimed artist initially dismisses Luke as a "gay cliché." When they later inadvertently hook up in a backroom, they figure, what the hell?, and embark on a new relationship.

**"God Only Knows: Same Sex Marriage" directed By: Brent Kawchuk**

Canada, 2005, 63 min, Video

A gay minister and a straight religious right activist agree to exchange lives to debate same-sex marriage in this captivating film. Leaving their comfort zones, they put a face to the deeply dividing issue and learn about themselves and their opponents in the process.

**"Back Soon" directed by Rob Williams**

From the creator of the award-winning film *Long-Term Relationship* comes a story of love, loss, identity and hope. Aspiring actor Logan Foster (Windham Beacham) finds himself inexplicably drawn to reformed drug dealer Gil Ramirez (Matthew Montgomery), despite their different backgrounds – and the fact that they are both straight. But neither man is prepared for the true nature of their connection or the impact it will have on their lives.

**"The Year of Paper" directed by Nikki Parker, Kelly Rouse**

When officials began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004, this country went to war over a word. How different is a gay marriage from a heterosexual one? THE YEAR OF PAPER chronicles the newlywed year of three couples -lesbian, heterosexual and gay- exploring why they got married and how saying I Do has changed their relationships. Although each newlywed year takes a different path, these couples deal with similar issues. Family acceptance of their relationship, finances, resolving conflict and starting a family of their own are among the experiences they share. In experiencing their everyday lives, we see the human faces behind this contentious issue.

**"Take" directed by Charles Oliver**

'Take' occurs over two days - one day in the present and one day in the past. Ana (Minnie Driver) drives through the desert to witness the execution of Saul (Jeremy Renner), the stranger who destroyed her life so many years ago. Saul waits out the final hours of his life. Both are caught in the memory of the day when their lives crossed paths and changed forever. Years earlier, Saul is out of a job, out of money, and out of time to pay his debts. Ana, with her young son, tries to work out her uncertain future. It only takes a moment for their lives to collide and become permanently intertwined.

**"The Memory Thief" directed by Gil Kofman**

Killing time in his tollbooth job with a copy of *Mein Kampf*, Lukas attracts the ire of a Holocaust survivor. He ends up obsessed with the Holocaust, absorbing the horror of it as though it is his own history, testing the limits of empathy.

**Principal Cast:** Mark Webber, Rachel Miner, Jerry Adler, Allan Rich, Douglas Spain, Peter Jacobsen

**"Chuan Yue Gao Yuan" (Across the Plateau) sub. by Harriet Pike**

**US PREMIERE**

The extraordinary story of seven Chinese men and women, all of them retired, from different backgrounds and life experiences who come together to form a cycling team. They take an extraordinary journey from the industrial city of Lanzhou in north-west China,

across the Tanggula Mountain and Tibetan plateau to Lhasa and finally to the Everest Base Camp. The whole journey is 3,100 kilometres and takes the cyclists across five mountains with altitudes of over 5,200 metres. After conquering countless difficulties, they eventually realize their long-cherished dream, to cross the Roof of the World on bicycles.

**Dalai Lama Renaissance** dir. by Khashyar Darvich

At the edge of the Millennium, The Dalai Lama of Tibet invited 40 of the West's leading, most innovative thinkers in their respective fields to his residence tucked away in the Himalayan mountains of Northern India to discuss the world's problems and how we can solve them. What transpired was unexpected and powerful, and was captured by an 18 person, 5 camera film crew. The Wakan Foundation for the Arts took its 18 person crew to India and shot more than 140 hours of video footage during the week-long meeting and exploration of the future of mankind-- enough gripping and beautiful footage to make a powerful and cinematic documentary. The resulting feature-length documentary, "Dalai Lama Renaissance," is narrated by actor Harrison Ford.

**"Mississippi Son" directed by Don Wilson**

Mississippi Son tells the stories of the people, the culture, and the future of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Featuring interviews with Gulfport mayor Brent Warr and Biloxi mayor A.J. Holloway, never-before-seen storm footage, and an original blues-rock soundtrack composed and recorded by storm victims on equipment purchased with grants from The Edge's Music Rising and The Grammy's MusiCares, this film reminds us that the Mississippi Coast was completely destroyed by the biggest natural disaster in American history.

**"From The 50 Yard Line" directed by Doug Lantz**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

The documentary tells the emotional marching band story through two high school bands, one an Ohio championship show band, the other a Los Angeles band reborn after 18 years of silence due to cutbacks. Travel on adventures through band camp, the marching season, and 2006 competitions. See the life-changing effects for these students and the ramifications when music is lost. Learn about the substantial rewards of disciplined practice, the overlooked technical artistry involved, and dispel the misconceptions about band

**"The Listening Project" directed by Dominic Howes, Joel Weber**

**WORLD PREMIERE**

The Listening Project is a captivating 85-minute cinematic journey around the world in search of the meaning of America. The documentary follows four unique Americans as they travel to 14 countries, in each place asking "what do you think of America?" In a rural Tanzanian village, school teacher Carrie Lennox meets a Masai woman: "Thanks to God I'm meeting an American for the first time." She continues, "I heard about a war over there. I hope it doesn't come to Masai Lands." In wintry Samara Russia, Probation Officer Bob Roeglin listens to college students discuss their love for Metallica and Guns N' Roses. They ask, "I wonder what young Americans think of Russian culture." In bustling Shanghai, poet and self-described 'nerd' Bao Phi hung out with "Gary," a DJ obsessed with American hip-hop. "My parents...all they want for me is to get a stable job, get married, have kids, and die. They never understand. I play music. I make money. Are you kidding me?" And on the outskirts of Kabul, American human rights activist Han Shan listened to Arifa, who lost most of her family to an errant US bomb in 2001: "The jets were coming and attacking... the bricks were smashing from the walls...my children were young." The stories that unfold explore many facets of America's profound influence

over the social, political and economic landscape of the planet. A fast-paced, absorbing examination of human fellowship and what it means to be a citizen in a globalized world.

**“Who Loves the Sun” directed by Mark Bissonette**

Will Morrison (LUKAS HAAS) and Daniel Bloom (ADAM SCOTT) were the best of friends. They grew up together. Went to the same schools. Liked the same records. Loved the same girls. Daniel was Will's best man at his wedding to Maggie Claire (MOLLY PARKER). Then one day Will disappeared without a word. Half a decade later he re-surfaces and sets off a tsunami of unforeseeable events. WHO LOVES THE SUN is a delightfully witty character comedy from director Matt Bissonette, featuring perfectly pitched performances, a great soundtrack from Portastatic, songs from Silver Jews, and some hilariously realistic bad fighting.

**“Escape from Suburbia: Beyond the American Dream” directed by Gregory Greene  
US PREMIERE**

Suburbia, and all its promises, has become the American Dream — a lifestyle predicated on the dwindling availability of cheap and abundant oil. In Escape from Suburbia, director Gregory Greene introduces three engaging characters and a small town who move us from the realm of theory to the real world where an emerging movement of citizen's groups is confronting our addiction to oil with vision and courage. Escape from Suburbia is a wake-up call that challenges the illusion of never-ending growth and examines alternatives for a more sustainable society in the 21st century and beyond.

**“Love and Marriage” directed by Robert Wagner**

We hear from spokespeople both pro and con who feel very strongly about the issue of gay marriage. At the same time we visit with gay couples who are creating families and having children without the 1800 or so protections routinely granted to those who are legally married. Is gay marriage THE civil rights issue of our time or is it merely a right denied to the gay community that will never become the norm?

**“Her Best Move” directed by Norm Hunter**

High school is crazy enough, but for fifteen-year-old soccer star SARA DAVIS (Leah Pipes), it's about to get even crazier. On the field she dances through opponents to make impossible shots on goal - skills honed by her father GIL (Scott Patterson), a pro soccer coach. Encouraged by best friend TUTTI (Lalaine) to jump-start her life outside soccer, Sara makes up for lost time and discovers there's more to life than just sports. As Gil pushes Sara to make the Development Team, her hopes of performing in the dance recital and exploring a relationship with JOSH (Drew Tyler Bell), are shoved aside. With scouts watching every shot, Sara faces the challenge of discovering who she is before making the best move of her life.

**“Man from Earth” directed by Richard Schenkman**

Professor John Oldman unexpectedly announces his resignation from the University which he teaches at. Curious as to why his friends start to fish for details and John tells them that he is immortal and cannot stay in one place for more than ten years without his secret being discovered. From the pen of legendary writer, Jerome Bixby.

**Principal Cast:** Ellen Crawford, William Katt, Richard Riehle, David Lee Smith, Tony Todd, John Billingsley, Annika Peterson

**“Partition” directed by Vic Sarin  
US PREMIERE**

Gian and Naseem are a latter-day Romeo and Juliet. With the partition of India and Pakistan sparking bloodshed between Sikhs and Muslims, their respective people might be mortal enemies, but Gian and Naseem are determined to follow their hearts. As their love flourishes and eventually finds acceptance in Gian's village, the search for Naseem's family goes on, and a brief visit to see her family in Pakistan becomes a kind of imprisonment for Naseem, as her brothers and mother refuse to let her return to India. Gian sets off on a journey across a land whose wounds are still raw, hoping against hope that he can bring home peace and harmony.

**Principal Cast:** Neve Campbell, Kristin Kreuk, Jimi Mistry and Madhur Jaffrey

**“Soldiers of Conscience” directed by Catherine Ryan, Gary Weimberg**

To kill or not to kill? For soldiers, this is not an abstract question of philosophy. It is a personal, immediate and bloody responsibility. How do they, as soldiers and as human beings, make life and death decisions that they will never be able to forget or undo? SOLDIERS OF CONSCIENCE is a documentary about US soldiers wrestling with the profound question of the morality of killing in war; set during the current conflict in Iraq. SOLDIERS OF CONSCIENCE is a journey into how US soldiers are trained to kill - and a portrait of some who have chosen not to.

**“Red Without Blue” directed by Brooke Sebold,**

Identical twins Mark and Alex were born in Montana in 1983. Twenty-three years later, Mark is a gay art school student in San Francisco, while Alex has become a woman, Clair, living in New York City. Following the twins over a period of three years, Red Without Blue explores the journey each has taken - one marked by an initially idyllic all-American family that was rocked by divorce, drugs, and a joint suicide attempt, followed by forced separation and new beginnings. As Mark and Clair become adults, they reach new understandings about family, gender, identity, and the bond between identical twins who are no longer identical.

**“Two Minutes Later” directed by Robert Gaston**

Robert Gaston's Philadelphia-made *2 Minutes Later* is a thrilling, sexy and often sharply funny noir-ish thriller. It begins literally with a bang as handsome photographer Michael (Michael Molina) is being chased through dark rural woods by a determined, gun-toting stranger. One of the bullets hits its mark and...flash forward two weeks later as Kyle, Michael's twin brother, arrives in town to get to the bottom of his brother's recent disappearance. And he quickly finds, when mistaken for his brother, that his brother was a far from liked figure. Enter Abigail (Jessica Graham), a private investigator who already knows a thing or two about Michael: he's a jerk. And may have been murdered. As the pair investigate Michael's recent goings-on and rather lurid, Mapplethorpe-ian work -- "I need a shower," Abigail quips after sifting through his portfolio -- it's clear that motive is in no short supply. Many local men have been humiliated, disgraced and angered during Michael's abusive photo sessions and many personal relations. But when that determined stranger with the gun believes "Michael" is alive and well, he sets his sights on Abigail and Kyle. Director Gaston adds decidedly modern twists to the hard-boiled *film noir* template -- openly queer protagonists, tartly contemporary dialogue, full-frontal nudity and intense eroticism -- while delivering taut action and memorable performances. Think a queer *The Thin Man* as the witty repartee flies between the sassy and sultry Graham and the hunky Molina. All that's missing are a few stiff drinks -- that's on you.

**“The Times Were Never So Bad: The Life of Andre Dubus”**

**Edward J. Delaney**, director

88 min. USA, 2007

### **World Premiere**

Andre Dubus rises to become a 'writer's writer' (his stories included those made into the films 'In The Bedroom' and 'We Don't Live Here Anymore') whose stories celebrate human impulses and human tenderness as he struggles with his own demons. A tragic accident at the age of 49 forces him to re-examine his writing and whether his own life has measured up to the spirit within his own work.

### **"The Dhamma Brothers"**

**Andrew Kukura**, director,  
76 min. USA, 2006

### **World Premiere**

East meets West in the Deep South. Behind high security towers and a double row of barbed wire and electrical fence, dwells a host of convicts who will never see the light of day. But for some of these men, a spark was ignited, and an overcrowded maximum-security prison is forever changed by the influence of an ancient meditation program. The Dhamma Brothers tells a dramatic tale of human potential and transformation as it closely documents the stories of 36 prison inmates who enter into an arduous and intensive Vipassana meditation program. It challenges assumptions about the nature of prisons as places of punishment rather than rehabilitation and raises the question: is it possible for these men, some of whom have committed horrendous crimes, to change?

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

#### **"Ticks!"**

**Mary Healey Jamiel**, director  
20 min. USA, 2007

#### **Work in Progress**

At present 717,000 Rhode Islanders are at risk of getting bitten by an infected deer tick in their own backyard. This is the story of University of Rhode Island scientist Tom Mather's work in Lyme Disease prevention.

#### **"Red Terror On The Amber Coast"** directed by Kenneth Gumbert

A timely and telling journey into the heart of darkness of Stalin's rise to power 1939-40. Featuring interviews with survivors of, and witnesses to, Stalin's ruthless takeover with a focus on the struggle of the Lithuanian people to assert their human rights and independence. Stalin presided over a system that used state-sponsored terror as the principal means of social control, and in the process killed off people by the millions. Through interviews with resistance fighters, deportees, and men and women who worked as slaves in the forests and mines of Siberia, the film presents a picture of the Soviets' calculated attempts to crush the people of Lithuania, their country and their culture.

*Prize-winning film-maker Ken Gumbert is Associate Professor in the Theater, Dance and Drama Department at Providence College where he also runs the movie making program. His films principally explore the lives and situations of people deprived of human, legal, and religious rights. These include two films on the life and rituals of the Ute peoples in Utah's high desert, "Between Two Worlds" and "Ritual Ways." His film, "Saving Grace," on the Soviet crushing of religious and human rights after the takeover in Czechoslovakia in 1948, was given the Gabriel Award for the best documentary shown on national television in 2005. kgumbert@providence.edu*

#### **"Old House Soul"** directed by Don Manley and Michel Shtakleff

The work and advocacy of Steve Tyson, an architectural preservationist in RI is explored. Both Steve Tyson and Anne “Pete” Baker use this expression to describe a sensibility, not simply about restoring an old house but rather understanding and respecting the life and history of an artifact. Every building tells a story and they hope their preservation efforts will in part, preserve that story. We in turn hope that our project will stand as homage to this passionate approach to preservation. *(This film was made possible in part by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities.)*

#### **FROM THE VAULTS:**

##### **“Speedy” directed by Harold Lloyd (1928)**

Featuring a live score by the Alloy Orchestra. Speedy is Lloyd's last silent film and certainly one of his best. See why Lloyd was more popular than even Chaplain and Keaton at the end of the silent era. This fast paced dramatic comedy, shot in the streets of New York (Lower Manhattan—the Tribeca area) explores the theme of modernization, pitting the last horse drawn trolley in the city, against the evil forces of the transit monopoly.

##### **“Mary Poppins” directed by Robert Stevenson (1964)**

“You never need a reason, never need a rhyme,” to join in and step-in-time to the Sing-Along Mary Poppins brought to musical life by the award-winning score of Richard and Robert Sherman. The classic and beloved film stars film icon, Julie Andrews. Follow the adventures of little Jane and Michael Banks, wide-eyed and untidy, as they place their own unique ad for a very special nanny—and spit spot—we're off on a jolly holiday full of tea parties on the ceiling, horse races through pavement pictures, and of course the biggest word you ever heard.

##### **“Viva Las Vegas” directed by George Sidney (1964)**

Lucky Jackson arrives in town with his car literally in tow ready for the first Las Vegas Grand Prix - once he has the money to buy an engine. He gets the cash easily enough but mislays it when the pretty swimming pool manageress takes his mind off things. It seems he will lose both race and girl, problems made more difficult by rivalry from Elmo Mancini, fellow racer and womaniser. Perhaps some singing will help.

**Principal Cast:** Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret

##### **“Jailhouse Rocks” directed by Richard Thorpe (1957)**

Vince Everett is serving a one-year jail sentence for manslaughter. While in the big house, his cellmate, a former country singer, introduces him to the record business. Everett takes to it so well that he decides to become a singer when he gets out. However, he is quickly disillusioned by the record business. But with the help of a new friend, he decides to form his own label, and soon becomes an overnight sensation. But when he becomes a superstar, will his desire for fame and money cause him to forget the people who got him there?

**Principal Cast:** Elvis Presley, Dean Jones and Julie Tyler