

RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 3-9, 2009

DAY THREE: Wednesday, August 5th

FILM FESTIVAL REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY *(For Filmmakers and Media)*

Biltmore Hotel, 11 Dorrance Street, Providence, RI (401) 421-0700

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

RIIFF FILM SCREENINGS:

Cable Car Cinema (135 Seats)

South Main Street, Providence

KidsEye™ International Film Festival

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

10:00 a.m.

THE AWE OF DISCOVERY: Kids Shorts

Leonardo

Directed by Jim Capobianco

(2009, 10 min. U S A)

Follow Leonardo as he concocts his flying machine, gets ready for flight and finally...well you just have to see where the maestro's creativity takes him.

Leonardo is about the journey of the creative spirit, through much failure, pain, success and ruin. A journey that often does not end where the artist thought it would.

Gerald's Last Day

Directed by Justin Rasch, Shel Rasch

(2009, 12 min. U S A)

Gerald the dog has been scheduled for termination by the pound at 5:00. Today is his last chance to seduce a potential adopter.....can he do it before his time runs out?

Conrad the Wise

Directed by Alan Miller

(2009, 10 min. Canada)

Once upon a time there was a boy named Conrad who kept his pet monster in the shed, because it was more appealing than staying in the house with his oppressive guardian Miss Anthrop.

Thunder & Lightning

Directed by Susan and Katherine Procopio

(2009, 5 min, Canada)

Two sisters help each other through a night of stormy weather.

Mother Time

Directed by Jacob Proctor

(2009, 11 min. United Kingdom)

Matilda is a young girl whose concern for her visibly aging grandmother leads her to stop all the clocks in the house. But things take a turn for the peculiar when one of the clocks actually freezes her grandmother on the spot.

Alex's Halloween

Directed by Daniel Persitz

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(2008, 14 min. U S A)

Eight-year-old Alex prepares for Halloween by dressing up in different costumes and imagining himself as those characters. More than anything, he wants to go trick or treating with his older brother, who only agrees to go if they can acquire tons of candy and sneak it past their health-fanatic mom...

Damaged Goods

Directed by Barnaby Barford

(2008, 9 min. United Kingdom)

A classic boy meets girl tale - but one with shattering consequences.

Divers

Directed by Paris Mavroidis

(2008, 3 min. U S A)

A long and impossible choreographed dive.

ABUELO

Directed by Mary Ann Kellogg

(2009, 15 min. U S A)

In this heartfelt short film, we find 12 year old Emily who after the death of her mother would rather be left alone. When her father enlists Alberto, Emily's old Argentinian grandfather to watch over her. Emily is not shy about her displeasure with the arrangement or her contempt for the man who 'doesn't even speak English. Alone in her parent's bedroom, Emily takes comfort among the smell and feel of her mother's belongings when Alberto interrupts her reverie. Grappling with the language barrier between them, Emily agrees to accompany her grandfather on a journey into their Los Angeles neighborhood that proves both disappointing and delightful. In an unexpected diversion on the way home Emily witnesses the foreign world of cigars, civility, conversation, Tango music and dance. Later on that night in the warm glow of the kitchen, Alberto understands what Emily cannot express in words and Alberto offers his granddaughter her first tango lesson on the kitchen linoleum. Emily and Alberto dance a simple tango and discover a language they can share.

7:15 p.m.

Mannen med kulorna (The Man with all the Marbles)

Directed by Hans Montelius

(2009, 14 min, Sweden)

This is story of the rivalry between two brothers. Håkan is the successful one, running the family business. Martin is homeless. Håkan has always won over Martin in everything, from the marbles they played as children to control of the business. And Martin is fixed on the idea of beating his brother in a game of marbles. If he can just beat him, everything will turn around. Håkan wants Martin to sign over the business to him. But Martin won't do it unless they play one more game.

Stand Up

Directed by Clara Xing

(2008, 105 min. U S A/China)

In Jilin, China, Song Xue-Wen becomes the inadvertent victim of a radioactive accident at his company. He undergoes seven major operations, with both legs and the left hand amputated. However, the company refuses to give him proper compensation to pay for prosthetic limbs with which he might some day achieve his dream of standing up.

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Experiencing the lowest point of his life, he meets a young girl, named Yang Gang. Song and Yang decide to go to the company's headquarters in Beijing to seek justice.

Life in the big city is hard for the young couple, but through it they find happiness and what it means to stand up.

The film is based on a true story. Song Xue-Wen plays himself in the movie.

9:30 p.m.

FOUND

Directed by Paramita Nath

(2009, 6min. Canada)

In 1978, Toronto-poet Souvankham Thammavongsa's parents lived in a Lao refugee camp in Thailand, where she was born. Her father kept a scrapbook filled with doodles, addresses, postage stamps, maps and measurements. He threw this scrapbook out one day and when he did, she took it and found this...

ISSIZ ADAM (ALONE)

Directed by Cagan Irmak

(2008, 113 min, Turkey)

Cast: Cemal Hunal

Thirty-something ALPER is a talented chef who runs his own restaurant. He may have achieved success in business, but the same cannot be said of his personal life. While caught in the triangle of his gastronomic creations, one-night stands and escort girls, he suddenly finds his life take a new turn when he walks into a second-hand bookshop in the backstreets of Beyoglu to buy an old record he has been looking for.

ADA is an attractive, unassuming and relatively stable woman in her late 20s who designs and makes fancy dress costumes for kids. One day, while wandering around Beyoglu in search of a second-hand book, she walks into the same shop as Alper. A womaniser by nature, Alper is impressed by Ada's good looks and sets off in pursuit. As a pretext for introducing himself, he tracks down the book Ada was looking for, buys it and then presents it to her.

As it turns out, this book is the beginning of a passionate affair between the two. But the harder Alper tries to create space for Ada in his existing life, the more restricted, the more claustrophobic he starts to feel. Ada, however, is blissfully unaware of the poison in Alper's blood and delights on being in love.

Ada and Alper live out their romance as far as they are able and in the measure to which life allows them.

Bell Street Chapel (100 Seats)

5 Bell Street, Providence

[Providence GLBT Film Festival](#)

7:30 p.m.

Marriage Equality Discussion Panel

After screening a film that addresses issues related to equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, please join us for a panel discussion. Participants will include filmmakers, Kathy Kushnir, Executive Director of Marriage Equality Rhode Island,

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Rev. Jose Ballester, consulting minister of Bell Street Chapel, and members of the Rhode Island General Assembly who support marriage equality legislation.

Special Screening:

Out in the Silence

Directed by Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson

(2009, 56 min. U S A)

The announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson's wedding to another man ignites a firestorm of controversy and a quest for change in the small Pennsylvania hometown he left long ago. Drawn back by a plea for help from the mother of a gay teen being tormented at school, Wilson takes viewers on an exhilarating journey through love, hate, and understanding in rural America.

9:30 p.m.

Storm

Directed by Joan Beveridge

(2008, 13 min. United Kingdom)

A daughter's unexpected visit to her estranged mother triggers an emotional storm leading to sudden and explosive violence.

¿IGUALES?

Directed by JAVIER DE LA TORRE

(2008, 15 min. Spain)

Adela isn't the girl from a romantic comedy. Hassan isn't the gallant hero of an adventure film. Sylvia isn't at all like a femme fatale. And Sofia isn't either what we can call an ideal mother. What they are and what they look for... well, does it matter?

Swimming with Lesbians

Directed by David Marshall

(2009, 69 min. U S A)

It has been said, "Gays have a past but no history." Gays and Lesbians don't grow up immersed in gay history, it is something they must search for. For those coming of age in the 1950's, much of significant American gay history is their personal history -- the Mattachine Society, Stonewall, the gay rights movement, psychiatric redefinition of homosexuality, Don't Ask Don't Tell, Romer v. Evens, AIDS, civil unions, marriage -- it's all in the last 50 years. Swimming with Lesbians is a film that explores an upstate New York community's efforts to create an LGBT historic archive -- led by the extraordinary Madeline Davis.

Brown/RISD Hillel

89 Brown Street, Providence, RI 02906

401.863.2805

RIFF Jewish Film Festival

6:00 p.m.

The Stars Don't Twinkle In Outer Space

Directed by Peter Thwaites

(2008, 10 min. United Kingdom/Hungary)

A 1940's space adventure story in which two children, 'Starman' and 'the Princess' struggle to escape their doom. As the truth of their situation becomes clear we realize the terrible nature of their predicament.

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No.4 Street of Our Lady

Directed by Barbara Bird, Judy Maltz, Richie Sherman
(2009, 90 min. U S A / Israel, U S A, Ukraine)

No. 4 Street of our Lady tells the remarkable, yet little-known, story of a Polish-Catholic woman who rescued 16 Jews during the Holocaust by cleverly passing herself off as a Nazi sympathizer. This film reflects on the painful moral dilemmas that acts of rescue and survival often entail and reveals how traumatic events of the past continue to play out years later. On the eve of World War II, more than 6,000 Jews lived in Sokal, a small town in Eastern Poland, now part of Ukraine. By the end of the war, only about 30 had survived, most of them rescued by Francisca Halamajowa. For close to two years, Halamajowa hid her Jewish acquaintances in her tiny home and cooked and cared for them, right under the noses of German troops camping on her property and hostile neighbors. Two families were hidden in the hayloft of her pigsty, and one family in a hole dug under her kitchen floor. In the final months of the war, she also provided shelter to a German soldier who had defected – an act that almost cost her her life. The film draws on excerpts from a diary kept by one of the survivors, Moshe Maltz, whose granddaughter is one of the filmmakers. It also incorporates testimonies from other Jews saved by Halamajowa, her descendants and former neighbors, whose paths converge on a trip back to Sokal. Powerful location shots add another rich dimension to the story, providing the backdrop as the drama unfolds.

8:00 p.m.

Going Home

Directed by Jason Hoffmann
(2008, 73 min. South Korea, U S A)

Jason Hoffmann has always identified himself as being a true New Yorker. Having grown up in liberal Greenwich Village with Jewish parents, he was content with the American life that had been chosen for him nearly two decades earlier when he was adopted from South Korea. Jason never expected to explore his complicated and concealed family history, but as he grew into adulthood, he became increasingly more curious about his mysterious roots.

In the documentary GOING HOME, Jason finally summons up the courage to initiate contact with his birth mother. Without confirmation that a face-to-face meeting would even be possible, Jason takes a risk and sets out on a life-changing journey halfway around the world with his Korean girlfriend, Mikyung by his side. Once in Korea, Jason excitedly learns that his mother wishes to meet him, but when she suddenly falls ill on the day of their planned meeting, Jason's short-lived optimism takes a discouraging turn.

Filled with deeply human moments of joy and pain, GOING HOME shares Jason's intimate search in realizing what his life could have been had he not been adopted. In the face of adversity and complete upheaval of buried insecurities about his identity, Jason will find a profound new meaning of family.

Columbus Theatre Arts Center

270 Broadway, Providence

- **Cinematheque** (Upstairs - 200 Seats):

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1:00 p.m.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY: an international focus

Still Water (Ακύμαντη Θάλασσα)

Directed by Elina Fessa
(2008, 12 min. Greece, U S A)

When Daphne returns to the island on which she grew up, she finds herself trapped between the sea and the past.

Half Kenneth

Directed by Ken Ochiai
(2008, 22 min. U S A)

1945: after the death of their father, Ken and Jo escape Japanese American internment camp to find their Caucasian mother, but discover something neither of them could have anticipated.

The Ground Beneath

Directed by Rene Hernandez
(2008, 20 min. Australia)

Kaden's encounters with friends and enemies propel him on a journey of self-discovery.

The Rescuer Hero

Directed by Christopher Broe
(2009, 5 min, Singapore)

The Rescuer Hero tells the story of a lonely man who feels heroic when he saves his best friend (a stuffed monkey) from danger. Little does he know, however, that polka dot girl has an agenda of her own.

Lulaland

Directed by Jan Hellstern
(2009, 16 min. Germany)

The grandmother is horrified when she hears little Lara talking about Lulaland. This was the place where Laras father used to fled his mind when he could no longer stand the 'games' his father played with him.

YES

Directed by Brooks Tomb
(2008, 14 min, U S A)

Helen Parks is a lonely, prim woman, used to saying 'no' - in her job and in her social life. Idly gazing at the employee bulletin board one day, she has a revelation: what if she just said 'yes'? But once she starts she can't stop, and is swept away on a dark adventure when she says 'yes', literally, to everything.

Bonfire

Directed by Melissa Anastasi
(2009, 20 min. Australia)

A wild little girl Mira seeks revenge on her violent father Stavro after he kills the thing she loves most.

3:15 p.m.

Noor

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Directed by: Razan Ghalayini
(2008, 25 min. Jordan, U S A)

Noor, an American teen visiting Palestine for the first time with her mother, gets caught in an Israeli Defense Forces imposed curfew - interrupting her birthday plans with a sudden journey to her aunts. While there, she is forced to come to terms with her families past in an unexpected turn of events.

Tapped

Directed by Stephanie Soechtig
(2009, 79 min. U S A)

Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right, or a commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce? Stephanie Soechtig's debut feature is an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water.

From the producers of *Who Killed the Electric Car* and *I.O.U.S.A.*, this timely documentary is a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that aims to privatize and sell back the one resource that ought never become a commodity: our water.

From the plastic production to the ocean so many of these bottles end up in, this inspiring doc trails the path of the bottled water industry and the communities which were the unwitting chips on the table. A powerful portrait of the lives affected by the bottled water industry, this revelatory doc shows those caught at the intersection of big business and the public's right to water.

"Eye-opening, informative and incredibly important for you to see...Tapped is another example of realizing film's potential to inspire. This is a passionate documentary, well-executed from engaging and intelligent voices who will inform and entertain you with their movie. See it!"

-Ben Lyons, *E! Entertainment & At the Movies*

5:20 p.m.

LOCKER 13: DOWN AND OUT

Directed by Matthew Mebane
(2008, 14 min. U S A)

Tommy Novak, an aging boxer in the twilight of his career, wants nothing more than to go out with a win, and when a mysterious old janitor gives him that chance, Tommy's conscience suddenly becomes his main combatant.

TEN 9 EIGHT,

Directed by Mary Mazzio
(2009, 85 min. U S A)

with appearances by Arthur Blank (founder, Home Depot); Wyc Grousbeck (owner, Boston Celtics); Ralph Schlosstein (founder, BlackRock); Kay Koplovitz (founder, USA Network); Tom Scott (founder, Nantucket Nectars)

In America, a kid drops out of high school every 9 seconds, Imagine if they didn't. The inspiring story of several inner city teens defying the statistics. This is the compelling question behind award-winning filmmaker Mary Mazzio's newest project *Ten9Eight*, a thought provoking film which tells the inspirational stories of several inner city teens (of differing race, religion, and ethnicity) from Harlem to

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Compton and all points in between, as they compete in an annual business plan competition run by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

7:30 p.m.

BECOMING HUMAN: a shorts package

Quase Todo Dia

Directed by Gandja Monteiro
(2009, 18 min. Brazil, U S A)

Both on screen and off: Polly, a 24 year old mother, Agatha, a 5 year old daughter, and Rio de Janeiro, a city full of obstacles. On a long winter day this mother-daughter team deal with reckless bus rides, an absent father and a dangerous city.

The Last Moments of Leopoldo Berenguer

Directed by Jaime Dezcallar
(2009, 10 min. Spain, U S A)

Every person is king of his own life. Leopoldo, father or president of a banana republic, refuses to see how close he is to losing everything he has.

Oscar & Jim

Directed by Iain Weatherby
(2009, 28 min. United Kingdom/France)

He wants to see the grave of Jim Morrison. She wants to find the tomb of Oscar Wilde. Their Eurostar leaves Paris in two hours. It's the end of their first weekend away together. But will it be their last?

IO PARLO! (I'LL TELL ON YOU!)

Directed by: Marco Gianfreda
(2009, 20 min. Italy)

Bruno 12 years old, would like to be friend of Luca (25), the boyfriend of his sister Claudia, but Luca doesn't even see him. When Bruno catches him talking with another girl, he sees the chance to reach his goal.

Flat Love

Directed by Andres Sanz
(2009, 15 min. Spain, U S A)

A man, convinced that the world is actually flat, falls in love with a two-dimensional woman at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. From the writer/director of the award-winning "Bedford", FLAT LOVE is a unique, funny tale of love and obsession narrated by acclaimed actress Isabella Rossellini.

Kavi

Directed by Gregg Helvey
(2009, 18 min. India, U S A)

Did you know slavery still exists? Kavi is a young boy who is forced to make bricks with his family in Maharastra, India. While his family has accepted their fate, Kavi won't settle for it and wants to escape.

9:30 p.m.

ROAR

Directed by: Adam Wimpenny
(2009, 16 min. United Kingdom)

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A socially awkward Londoner is lonely at Christmas. When a cold city girl rejects his gesture of goodwill, he takes drastic action. Roar is a smart and subversive short film that will haunt you for months.

The Vicious Kind

Directed by Lee Krieger

(2008, 91 min. U S A)

Cast: Adam Scott, Alex Frost, Brittany Snow and J.K. Simmons

"The Vicious Kind" is a redemption tale focused on Caleb Sinclair, a bitter construction worker whose life is turned upside down one Thanksgiving weekend. Estranged from his family, Caleb lives an isolated life. Following a difficult breakup, he becomes scornful toward women and wears his disdain as a badge of honor. Caleb's resolve is tested, however, when he meets his younger brother Peter's new girlfriend, Emma. Immediately distrustful of her, Caleb warns Peter that she will only end up hurting him. Despite his efforts to protect his brother, he finds himself drawn to Emma and surprised by his growing attraction. Caleb's unexpected feelings force him finally to confront the vulnerability he has struggled so long to conceal.

• **Andrews Theatre** (Downstairs - 875 Seats):

7:00 p.m.

Transit

Directed by Chris Roche

(2009, 7 min. United Kingdom)

A young boy returns from holiday with his parents and passing through the airport he meets a stranger whom transforms his life forever.

Mariachi

Directed by Elena Julia Greenlee

(2009, 13 min. U S A)

A New York teen struggles to carve his identity somewhere between his Mexican born parents and his Brooklyn bred peers. An unexpected accident and immigration investigation force him into uncharted territory, further from home and closer to finding himself.

GARGOYLE

Directed by Kelsey Egan

(2009, 25 min. South Africa)

A security guard by day, Themba supplements his meager income with crime in order to support his younger brother, only to discover that his most recent victim is his brother's favorite teacher.

Home Across Lands

Directed by John Lavall

(2008, 59 min. Ethiopia, U S A)

HOME ACROSS LANDS is a documentary that explores how a small group of resettled Kunama refugees find support and reestablish their sense of community in a small New England State.

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Considered among the original inhabitants of Eritrea the Kunama are a marginalized minority populating the remote but fertile regions near the border of Ethiopia.

In 1998, war between Eritrea and Ethiopia broke out in a conflict over these fertile border lands forcing over 4,000 Kunama to flee across the border into Northern Ethiopia. In 2000, the war ended with the Eritrean government regaining control of the disputed area, separating thousands of Kunama from their homeland and way of life.

Today the Kunama wait in desolation, 45 km from the contentious Eritrean border, warehoused in the Shimelba Refugee Camp in Northern Ethiopia. Life in the camp is difficult and opportunities for a better life are nonexistent but the Kunama remain committed to their strong sense of community and family in spite of their displacement. Unwanted in Ethiopia and unable to return to their homes safely, a small number of Kunama are given the opportunity for resettlement in the United States.

HOME ACROSS LANDS chronicles the journey of these newly arrived Kunama as they strive to become self-reliant, invested participants in their new home. Guiding their transition is the resettlement agency, International Institute of Rhode Island that connects them to the resources they need as they work to establish a new community and a better life for their families.

9:15 p.m.

Maizonkowie (Significant Others)

Directed by Dara Van Dusen
(2009, 12 min. Poland)

A young girl, trapped in her own dysfunctional fairy tale, finds herself forced to decide between an inflatable animal and her husband.

DANDELION DHARMA

Directed by Veronica DiPippo
(2008, 26 min. U S A)

Trudy (Amanda Tepe), a distraught 20-something, stands brokenhearted and sobbing in the community garden plot she once shared with her fiancé.

Suddenly, she is interrupted by three mysterious women: 80-year old Brit - Emma Chaise (Mimi Cozzens) - feisty former WWII fighter pilot; Liah Montez (Myriam Tubert) - 70-something Hispanic beauty - former owner of a whorehouse in Guadalajara, and "Mad" Sonja (Damara Reilly) - a hip reefer-smoking ex-dancer. As the women become intimate sharing their personal stories of failed romance... along with laced brownies and shots of vodka.... Trudy begins to fall under their spell.

Following tales of love and loss, where "beginnings come from endings, endings from beginnings," Trudy's perception of life changes, as she uncovers new meaning to the words "letting go".

BITTER/SWEET

Directed by: Jeff Hare
(2008, 105 min. Thailand)

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Cast: James Brolin, Kalorin Supalak Nemayothin, Kip Pardue, Laura Sorenson, Napakprapa Mamee Nakprasit

"Bitter/Sweet" is a character-driven romantic comedy, while at the same time, also a classic, "fish-out-of-water" story. The movie is the story of American executive and coffee expert Brian Chandler (Kip Pardue), who seemingly has a "perfect" life. However, things begin to change for Brian after his boss, renegade coffee mogul Calvert Jenkins (James Brolin) sends him to Thailand to inspect a crop for purchase.

Upon arrival, Brian meets Ticha (Napakprapa "Mamee" Nakprasit), a Bangkok PR executive who takes care of Thailand's glamorous multi-talent diva Tata Young (Tata Young). Busy herself with work, Ticha has long-since given up on the prospects of finding true love. At the urging of her coffee farmer parents with the hopes that Brian will purchase his coffee there and save the village from cutthroat middlemen, Ticha takes on the task of bringing Brian to the coffee fields of Southern Krabi, and reconciling with her past.

Ticha's fierce sister Mint (Pakaramai Potranan) and her handsome boxing boyfriend Komane (Akara Amatayakul), her outgoing best friend Mook (Kalorin Nemayothin) and Mook's outrageously funny expatriate boyfriend Werner (Spencer Garrett), not to speak of Brian's fiancée Amanda (Laura Sorenson) give interesting sub plots to the story.

Brian and Ticha are the "same sides of a different coin" so they butt heads constantly. However, as their journey leads them from the cosmopolitan bustle of Bangkok to the picturesque limestones surrounded coffee plantations of Krabi, both Brian and Ticha begin to realize they were made for each other.

POST SCREENING PARTY AND FILMMAKER GATHERING

Time: 9:30 p.m. onward

Theme: INTERNATIONAL

Location: **Shula's Restaurant**, 21 Atwells Avenue (in Hilton Hotel)

Complimentary Appetizers and Music

\$10 for Guests, *Free for filmmakers with pass*