

# RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## 2006 DAY-BY-DAY CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[LOCATION: ZOOMA, 245 ATWELLS AVE PROVIDENCE](#)

#### **RIIFF '06 Filmmaker Awards Ceremony/Brunch**

Join us as we honor this year's filmmakers with our annual awards presentation. Brunch tickets are \$15 for filmmakers/\$20 for guests and audience.

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[LOCATION: COLUMBUS THEATER ARTS CENTER, PROVIDENCE](#)

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

#### **Documentary Feature:**

##### **“Sweet Dreams”**

Eric Latek, director

115 min. USA, 2006

Sweet Dreams tells the story of two Italian-American men. One of them, Gary “Tiger” Balletto is a 27-year-old boxer, who, burdened by the memories of a fellow boxer killed in the ring, attempts to unionize the sport to provide boxers with health insurance and other benefits, as well as future jobs outside the ring. While trying to organize the only professional sport where athletes have no protection, Balletto shoulders the tasks of raising a family, running a construction business, and training and boxing professionally. Then there is Derek Fleming, a 19-year-old bartender and bookie – and “wanna-be” wiseguy. Derek dreams of upholding a reputation as a tough enforcer but faces hardship in this endeavor due to his naturally gentle, soft-spoken personality, and sometime thoughtless ways.

2:45 – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Short Film: “Chloe”**

#### **Feature Presentation:**

##### **“Tomorrow is Today”**

Frederic Lumiere, director

98 min. USA 2006

*Cast • Scout Taylor-Compton, David Brown, Marc Hefti & Luke Pennington*

#### **World Premiere**

At the New Jersey shore, young Julie Peterson (Scout Taylor-Compton) saves the life of a drifter who's on the skids. Going one further, Julie resolves to save him emotionally, too, by instilling the gift of hope. But first, she has to contend with a local sheriff who wants the drifter gone and an admirer who's jealous of Julie's relationship with her new 'project.' Soon, a chain of events is set in motion that will change everyone's lives.

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Short Film:**

**"Belinda's Swan Song"**

Alicia Witt, director

16 min, USA

**World Premiere**

A musical theatre singer takes the stage for her final performance in this 16 minute one-woman film. As Belinda sings and addresses her audience for the very last time, we see that all is not as simple as it seems-- and get a glimpse into the inherent love/hate relationship between artist and audience.

**Feature Presentation:**

**"The Eagle"**

Clarence Brown, Director

73 min. USA 1925

Cast • Rudolph Valentino & Louise Dresse

**Music by the Alloy Orchestra**

The new 35mm print has been completed with the new "High Silver" process, at Cinema Arts in Pennsylvania, by Janice Allen and Michael Kolvek. "The Eagle" (1925) is old-fashioned screen entertainment based on Russian writer Pushkin's story, Dubrovsky, and two earlier film successes, The Mark of Zorro (1920) and Robin Hood (1922), both starring Douglas Fairbanks. As with Fairbanks', The Eagle is fast-paced and simply tongue-and-cheek, including some witty title readings such as "Revenge is sweet, but sometimes a girl is sweeter," or The Eagle's memorable maxim, "The Eagle does not war against women." Direction by Clarence Brown is first-rate, featuring fine camera style tracking over the long dinner table during a social function dinner scene at the home of Kyrilla. Along with some authentic dress designs, compliments of Adrian, this production also includes expensive set designs by William Cameron Menzies that help The Eagle capture the flavor of old imperial Russia. Dresse, with relatively little screen time, makes a very impressive Catherine II in her scene-stealing performance. Because Valentino and the Hungarian-born Vilma Banky worked so well together in The Eagle, they were reunited again in The Son of the Sheik (1926). Also featured in the cast are Albert Conti as Captain Kuschka; George Nichols as The Judge; and Michael Pleschkoff as the Captain of the Cossack Guard.

**9:30-11:00 p.m.**

**Closing Night Wrap Party**

Immediately following the Closing Night Screening of "The Eagle," audience members are invited to join Festival filmmakers, guests, sponsors, and volunteers for our annual closing "Wrap" party to be held in the Galleria of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). It is sure to be a festive end to this year's 10<sup>th</sup> Season. It promises to be an evening of mingling, music and fun. Dress for the event is festive-casual. Tickets to the party can be purchased for \$35 that evening or in advance.

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**LOCATION: COLUMBUS THEATER CINEMATHÉQUE, PROVIDENCE**

**12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Feature Documentary:**

**“Rex Trailer’s Boomtown”**

**Michael Bavaro**, director

62 min. USA, 2006

Cast • Jay Leno, Mike O'Malley & Rex Trailer

**World Premiere**

In the early days of television most broadcast markets had a local children's personality. Some were clowns, fairy godmothers, or spacemen but Boston had a real cowboy named Rex Trailer. He is the subject of this first feature-length film by Massachusetts native Michael Bavaro.

His interactive Western-themed show 'Boomtown' was a weekend staple for the 4 million children who watched on WBZ-TV in Boston and which reached into most states of New England. More than 200,000 kids appeared live on the show during its run throughout the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The 3-hour show offered music, games, cartoons and life-learning lessons.

This meticulously constructed documentary is a treasure of salvaged footage, including a 1952 kinescope, found on Ebay from Rex's early days at WPTZ in Philadelphia. While 'Boomtown' aired live every Saturday and Sunday, it was uncommon and expensive to record each show to videotape but the few that survived are classic eye-candy entertainment.

The film is told through the memories of more than 100 grown-up kids who were interviewed from Boston to California. Television stars Jay Leno, Tom Bergeron, Mike O'Malley, comedians Steven Wright, Lenny Clarke, Jimmy Tingle, and Boston mayor Tom Menino are just some of the more celebrated figures who share their childhood passion for this real life cowboy and broadcast pioneer.

'Rex Trailer's Boomtown' is a time machine back to an age of innocence, 'WANTED' posters, and live one-take TV.

**Feature Documentary:**

**“For the Love of Dolly”**

Tai Uhlmann, Director

56 min. USA 2006

*New England Premiere*

“For the Love of Dolly”, a feature length documentary, takes you into the hearts and homes of Dolly Parton's most dedicated fans. Illuminating the phenomenon of fandom, the film focuses on the human stories and what inspires them to extreme acts of devotion.

The diverse characters in the film are held together by the shared love for their icon and the need to close to her. They go to great lengths and it is through

these experiences that we come to understand who our characters truly are and what motivates them.

For these five people Dolly is much more than a country singer. She is the mother they never had, a guardian angel, a reason to live. She has helped them through hard times, and allows them to express things they otherwise cannot. In some way, the lives of all the people in this film have been broken and it is through their love of Dolly that they have found hope. In return for this feeling no sacrifice is too great. They quit jobs, rearrange schedules, leave family and friends behind, all for a single moment when they might get Dolly's attention, a smile, eye contact, a moment of recognition.

The documentary culminates with the anticipation and chaos of Dolly's big parade through the streets of her hometown, the one chance our fans have to see her each year.

For the Love of Dolly, is an intimate look into the world of fandom and the real life stakes our characters experience in their quest to get close to Dolly.

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**“Sweetzer”**

Wayne Reynolds, director

96 min. USA 2006

*Ensemble cast includes Wayne Reynolds, Jorge Garcia, the 'big guy' from ABC's award winning “Lost”, and Bryan Callen whose credits include “Mad TV” and “Fat Actress”.*

Story unfolds over 24 hours with Cooper, played by Wayne Reynolds, wrongly accused of an infidelity and thrown out of the house by his girlfriend, drifts through the shenanigans of Los Angeles while coming to terms with the death of his father and the love of his life.

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Shooting From the Hip Comedy Shorts**

“K-7”

“Rhapsody in Red”

“Dangerfield”

“Pitch Perfect”

“Corpus Interruptus”

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**LOCATION: CABLE CAR CINEMA, PROVIDENCE**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Documentary Feature:**

**“Karen Blixen: Out of This World”**

Marcus Mandal, director

58 min. Denmark 2005

*Official US Premiere at RIFF*

This is the story of the incredible life of Danish author Karen Blixen (Isak Dinesen) - a story just as dramatic as her own fantastic tales.

During the documentary the viewers are taken on a journey through the life of Karen Blixen, told by people close to her. Blixen herself contributes through old footage. Among those taking part are also Meryl Streep.

The directors have been given unique access to photos and letters from private archives, many of which have never been made public before. To complement the rich imagery of this film, additional footage and historical reenactments have been shot on location in Denmark and Kenya.

The music consists exclusively of the original lacquer discs Karen Blixen collected throughout her life.

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Documentary Feature:**

**“More Than a 1,000 Words”**

Solo Avital, director

77 min. Israel, Japan, USA, 2006

**East Coast Premiere**

Ziv Koren's photographs have become instantly recognizable icons that have helped shape our perception of the conflict in the Middle East. In '...More Than 1000 Words' director Solo Avital followed Ziv over a two-year period, shooting in the heart of riots, terror attack scenes, secret meetings with wanted militants, all the way to Israel's pullout from Gaza. This movie, however, is not about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict; it is merely set in it. It's a movie about a man's struggle with a history in which he is involved, and the place he finds for himself in it. Like Ziv, it seeks the universal through the most personal; it asks how and why this man gets up in the morning to leave his wife and daughter for a war zone. The movie does not only seek history through the photographer's lens – but also the photographer through the lens of history.

Like its subject, the film looks back to look ahead, treading the thin taut line between subjectivity and objectivity. As the cycle of destruction and creation turns, Ziv's place in it comes into focus. As in Greek tragedy, the hero's place in the cycle illuminates our own.

As a photographer Ziv strives to disappear into the situations he shoots. The film's experiential aesthetic reflects this. Its driving and jolting audiovisual rhythms are those of Ziv's work. Much of the musical accompaniment is mixed from sound recorded on site. As video snaps into still and back we feel what it is to snatch an image from the rush of experience.

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation: “Keep Your Distance”**

(see previous listing)

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**GLBT Feature:**  
**"The Conrad Boys"**

Justin Lo, Director

93 min. USA 2006

*Cast • Barry Shay, Boo Boo Stewart, Bruce Blauer, Dorian Frankel & Justin Lo*  
The Conrad Boys are 19-year-old Charlie (first time writer/Director Justin Lo) and his precocious 9-year-old brother Ben. After the sudden death of their mother, all they have left is one another. Charlie decides to put his college plans on hold indefinitely to take care of Ben. But when charming drifter Jordan enters his life, Charlie's dreams of youthful freedom are reawakened. As the two attractive young men begin a romance, Charlie soon finds himself pulled between the responsibility of family and the demands of his heart – a situation intensified by the sudden reappearance of Doug, the Conrad boys' long absent father, now looking to reconcile with his sons. Will Charlie use this opportunity to finally follow his own dreams?

**Director in attendance**

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**LOCATION: CASTLE CINEMA ONE, PROVIDENCE**

**Short Film: "Reflections of a Life"**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Documentary Feature:**

**"The Shape of Water"**

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, director

70 min. USA

*Narrated by Susan Sarandon with a narration co-written by Edwidge Danticat.*  
This inspiring documentary tells the rare, intimate and compelling stories of women making change around the world: in Senegal (eliminating female genital cutting); Brazil (tapping trees for rubber and protecting the rainforest); India (a 700,000 strong collective of rural women and a seed saving/protecting biodiversity venture) and Jerusalem (Women in Black protesting the Israeli war and occupation). It interweaves poignant interviews and footage from Senegal, Brazil, India and Jerusalem to reveal the conflicts and pleasures for these five visionaries as they create a more just world.

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"Tempesta"**

Tim Disney, director

98 min. United Kingdom, 2005

Featuring Paul Guilfoyle (*LA Confidential, Crime Scene Investigation*), Rutger Hauer (*Confessions of a Dangerous Mind, Blade Runner*), and Malcolm McDowell (*Hidalgo, I'll Sleep When I'm Dead*).

American art appraiser, Patrick Donovan, is sent to Venice to authenticate three classical paintings belonging to the famous Galleria dell'Accademia. Arriving

during heavy rains, he finds the Galleria besieged by floods and closed to the public. With the floodwaters rapidly rising, he examines two Bellinis and confirms that they are indeed authentic but before he can get to Giorgione's The Tempest it is stolen. Police and media interest is high and Donovan unwittingly finds himself at the center of the investigation. What follows is a highly stylized and complex web of mystery, intrigue and betrayal which unfolds against the ghostly backdrop of the Venetian waterways. Donovan determines to uncover the truth behind the disappearing painting but soon finds himself at the mercy of a corrupt art collector, a petty thief and, ultimately, a deadly seductress.

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Short Film: "Detroit Not for Wimps"**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"The Hole Story"**

Alex Karpovsky, director

83 min. USA

Despite arctic temperatures sheathing Northern Minnesota in snow and solid ice, a massive inexplicable stretch of open water appears on one mysterious lake. Determined to unravel it for a television pilot called 'Provincial Puzzlers', an aspiring director is slowly engulfed in a maniacal search that leads to his own unraveling.

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Documentary Feature: "Ice Kings"**

(Repeat Screening: see previous listing at the Columbus, 8/12)

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**[LOCATION: CASTLE CINEMA TWO, PROVIDENCE](#)**

**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

**THE PROVIDENCE FILM FESTIVAL**

"Parachute Boy"

"Happy Hamptons Holiday Camp for Troubled Couples"

"Nine Lives"

"You're in the Nachos"

"Andres: Barred From the Box"

"Best of the University of Rhode Island Visualizations Film Festival"

**2:30 – 4:00 p.m.**

**It Really Is a Small World After All: Short Film Series**

"Small Boxes"

"Barrel Children"

"Recycled Life"

"Los Coyotes (The Smugglers)"

"Namibia Brasil"

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Short Film: "Die Rasur (The Shave), plus "Outtake"**

**THE PROVIDENCE GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

**"Jack Mitchell: My Life is Black and White"**

Craig B Highberger, Director

75 min. USA, 2006

***New England Premiere***

Director Craig Highberger follows his acclaimed documentary Superstar in a Housedress with this exceptional portrait of Jack Mitchell, a pivotal photographer of the arts for more than four decades. Through hundreds of his beautiful images, recollections from Jack and from Bob Pavlik, his partner of nearly 50 years, as well as interviews with luminaries including Edward Albee, Clive Barnes, Merce Cunningham, and Ned Rorem, among others, Highberger reveals his fascinating life and the art world he documented for Dance Magazine, The New York Times, and countless other publications. More than just a fantastic photographer with an eye for capturing the essence of his subjects, Jack emerges as a true chronicler of the changing face of performance arts.