



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
2009 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

For Details, Photographs or Videos about RIIFF News Releases,
Contact: Adam M.K. Short, Producing Director
adams@film-festival.org • 401.861-4445
Written by: Jenn Dlugos

WILLIAM SHATNER TO RECEIVE
2009 NATHANAEL GREENE HUMANITARIAN AWARD
AT RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

BELOVED ACTOR WILL ACCEPT PRESTIGIOUS AWARD AT EVENT HOSTED BY RIIFF, THE RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES (RICH) AND RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE; AND PRESENT MOST RECENT FILM WORK "WILLIAM SHATNER'S GONZO BALLET"

(PROVIDENCE, RI) William Shatner has gained worldwide fame as a screen (both big and small) actor. His portrayal of James T. Kirk on the 60's TV series "Star Trek" branded him as a cultural icon. The Rhode Island International Film Festival honors the artistic and philanthropic work of Mr. Shatner with its first-ever, **Nathanael Greene Humanitarian Award**, at this year's **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF), Thursday night, August 6th.

Shatner – a native of Montreal, Quebec – spent many years honing his craft in TV and live theater before his film debut in 1958 alongside Yul Brynner in "The Brothers Karamazov." He kept busy with numerous film and TV roles and in 1966 boarded the Starship Enterprise for a three-year stint on the iconic TV series. More recently, he played the title role in "TJ Hooker" and starred as an attorney on "Boston Legal," for which he won three Emmys and a Golden Globe Award.

The awards presentation will take place at the Columbus Theater Arts Center on Thursday, August 6th at 6:45 p.m. prior to the screening of David Bettencourt and G. Wayne Miller's "On the Lake: Life and Love in a Distant Place. The event is hosted by **RIIFF, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities (RICH)** and **Rhode Island College**. Tickets are \$15 for this event and can be purchased online now. <http://www.film-festival.org/WilliamShatner.php>

At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Shatner will take part in a special conversation with the audience: "**William Shatner Unplugged**." He will discuss his craft, share insights about his life, career, and the new documentary film "**William Shatner's Gonzo Ballet**" directed by Kevin Layne, which he will introduce and present. Tickets are \$15 for this event and are also available on line.

"Presenting Mr. Shatner with the **Nathanael Greene Humanitarian Award** is something that has great significance for us at the Festival and our collaborative partners at the **Rhode Island Council for the Humanities** and **Rhode Island College**," commented RIIFF's Executive Director George T. Marshall. "He is such a part of everyone's life with his amazingly vibrant acting career, and his generosity and compassion to those in need is inspirational.

"Mr. Shatner's history of giving to organizations such as **The Wells Fargo Charity House** and **The American Tinnitus Association** demonstrates a desire to help those who suffer. His

tireless work with **the Nerine Shatner Friendly House** is an inspiration to us all. Mr. Shatner's generous efforts provide shelter, help, and hope to thousands of women who are recovering from alcohol and substance abuse."

The **Nathanael Greene Humanitarian Award** is named after the Rhode Island Revolutionary War hero. This bi-annual award honors individuals who show universal and impartial benevolence to their fellow citizens and whose talent - on and off the screen - demonstrates the value they place in humanity.

THE WHO, WHAT AND WHERE OF IT:

Part One:

The **2009 Nathanael Greene Humanitarian Award** presentation to William Shatner will take place at the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway in Providence, RI.
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2009.

Time: The award presentation will take place at 6:45 p.m.

Cost: \$15 for general admission. *Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first served basis.*

Part Two:

"William Shatner Unplugged" and the screening of **"William Shatner's Gonzo Ballet"** will take place at the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, (270 Broadway) in Providence, RI.
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2009.

Time: The conversation and film presentation will take place at 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15 for general admission. *Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first served basis.*

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIIFF incorporates gala celebrations, premiere screenings, VIP guests, industry seminars, educational programs, and award ceremonies into a weeklong extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 235 films. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. This year's Festival takes place August 4-9, 2009.

For more information, write RIIFF, PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445, e-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org.

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