PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF ITS 19TH SEASON WITH OVER 260 FILMS AND LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE

From Olympia Dukakis, Julia-Louise Dreyfus, Mariette Hartley, Melissa Leo, the Monty Python Troupe, John Hurt to Michael Clarke Duncan in his last starring role; a celebration of RIIFF’s Academy-Award® Nominated Short Films; to over 70 World and United States Premieres, this year’s Festival is a Film-Filled Week, Hosted at Locations Across The State of Rhode Island.

Written by: Shawn Quirk & Tsutomu Brelsford

ABSTRACT/CALENDAR LISTING:
On August 4, 2015, Flickers kicks-off its 19th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) in Providence, RI. Out of the 7,000-plus film festivals worldwide, RIIFF is widely recognized as a credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award and the Short Documentary Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. There are 19 film festivals worldwide which share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. RIIFF is truly a place where the stars align! Aside from film screenings, the Flickers team has organized a number of events to encourage filmmakers and festival attendees to widen their knowledge of filmmaking as well as explore the incredible city of Providence that RIIFF is proud to call home.

For more information about the festival, please visit www.RIFilmFest.org.

WHAT: 19th Annual Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival

WHEN: August 4-9, 2015

WHERE: Providence, Newport, East Greenwich, Warwick, Narragansett, Woonsocket and Jamestown, Rhode Island
WHO: Flickers, Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative, creator of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

HOW MUCH: Tickets are $10 general admission to all screenings, except $15 for the opening night Gala; Senior, group and student discounts available with advance purchase.

To order call 401-861-4445 or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.RIFilmFest.org.

The 19TH ANNUAL FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (RIIFF), welcomes stellar filmmaking talents from all over the world to the Ocean State and most specifically to beautiful Providence, RI — one of America’s oldest and most beloved cities. For nearly two decades, RIIFF has embraced its visitors with the sort of warm-hearted, independent spirit that fosters long-lasting friendships, sparks exciting creative projects, and inspires guests to return again and again. It is little wonder that Chris Gore’s “Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide” praised RIIFF as “the kind of intimate festival experience that will change your life,” and Moviemaker Magazine hails RIIFF as “One of the Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee.”

There are literally thousands of film festivals worldwide but only 19 of them have a rather unique accolade; they are nominating Festivals for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in both the short film and documentary short division. The Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) is one of these 19 Festivals and the only Festival in New England with this distinction. RIIFF has seen 38 films nominated that premiered at the Festival and to date, there have been eight Academy wins.

The FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (RIIFF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, the Rhode Island International Film Festival has screened 3,896 independent films and videos out of 42,935 entries, presented 905 World/North American premieres, featured over 700 entries that were locally produced, and hosted 3,358 filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over 360,000 film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival, its film presentations and programming.

Year-round programming produced by Flickers includes the KidsEye Summer Filmmaking Camp, the Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Film Festival, the Roving Eye International Film Festival, the Jamestown Arts Center “Encore Series,” Flickers’ University French Film Discovery Program at NE Universities, the Annual LGBT Expo Video Lounge at the Javits Center in NYC, the 7DayPSA Competition, Red Carpet Experience: Providence, the Providence LGBTQ Film Festival, the Jewish Experience Program, Francofête -Francophonie: Rhode Island, and the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Last year, RIIFF presented over 200 films from throughout the world and welcomed 267 filmmakers, producers, cast, and crew. For its 19th season, Flickers is gearing up for an even more expansive program, maintaining its reputation as the largest and most visible film festival in New England. With 71 World and United Premieres, 265 feature length, documentary and short films - from 54 countries including India, Italy, Palestine, Iran, Bosnia, Argentina, Norway, the United Kingdom and South Africa, and 34 states in the US - will be screened during the six-day Festival period at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island. Films have been selected from an entry base of just over 5,700 submissions, a record for the Festival.

With a slew of unique offerings—including the RI Film Forum, ScriptBiz, the LGBTQ Symposium,
Providence Backlot Walking Tour, Acting for Camera Workshop, the Short Film Retrospective: “Journeys in Filmmaking”, Finding Your Story Workshop, the RI Film and Television Office’s Filmmaker Lounge, the Femmes Fatales Women Behind the Camera panel and film showcase, a special salute to the Centenary of legendary actor, Anthony Quinn, family and kids film programming under the KidsEye umbrella, the Providence LGBTQ Film Festival, The Providence Jewish Film Festival, The Film Youth Jury, and an expanded closing night block party at the Dark Lady —RIIFF ensures each of its participating visitors is treated to an enriching and inspiring festival experience.

This year’s Festival will be officially sponsored by Lexus Short Films. Representatives from Lexus corporate headquarters in Tokyo, Japan will be present to announce their official launch of the third annual Lexus Short Films Series in partnership with the Weinstein Company. For the first time ever, Lexus has launched a call for entries for short filmmakers worldwide. After the submissions come to a close, Lexus will select four lucky filmmakers from the submission pool, who will have the unique opportunity to write and direct a short film produced by The Weinstein Company.

2015 SPECIAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMMING

FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION & GALA opens this year’s Festival on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 7:00 p.m. at The Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC). Discover an unforgettably memorable selection of short films from around the world that await audiences at the gala opening night of the 19th Annual RIIFF. This year’s selection promises to engage, entertain and possibly discover the next Academy Award nominee. As part of it’s long tradition, Flickers will celebrate the “Art of the Short Film” representing an array of genres that salute RIIFF’s unique status: out of more than 7,000 film festivals world wide, the Rhode Island International Film Festival is one of only 19 qualifying Festivals with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—the Oscars—in the narrative and documentary short categories. It is the lone Festival in New England with that distinction.

PROVIDENCE FILM LOCATION WALKING TOUR lets you discover why Providence is truly a Hollywood backlot thanks to the RI Historical Society. Learn about the history of the city and find out about some of our state’s most notable and colorful characters. The goal of the tour is to provide filmmakers with an insider’s view of the downcity and riverwalk area, with an eye toward interesting, unanticipated places for filming. The Providence Location Walking Tour takes place on Wednesday, Aug. 5th, at 11:00 a.m. in Downtown Providence.

KIDSEYE™ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL is Rhode Island’s premiere showcase of cinematic work focused on young people involved with KidsEye™. Since it began 17 years ago, KidsEye™ has celebrated the most exceptional work of young video makers and has become a popular festival-within-a festival, featuring guest speakers, discussions, dance parties, concerts, and a “Youth Open Screen.” Those attending KidsEye™ will be able to meet youth video makers and their mentors; see a diverse collection of youth-produced media. On Saturday, be sure to join local filmmaker for the premiere work of the students from the annual KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp

BACKSTORY:
FLICKERS: KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp took place from July 6-10. This is the original five-day filmmaking camp for kids aged 8-17 presented by the Academy Award-qualifying, FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival. This year, 62 participants shoot several short films and a promotional trailer, attend workshops taught by certified educators and movie industry professionals, and learn about screenwriting, acting for the camera, directing, makeup, camera, costuming, and special effects. The event took place all day from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston campus.
THE RHODE ISLAND FILM FORUM provides the opportunity to become involved with the stars of the Rhode Island film community on Thursday, Aug. 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. One of the Festival’s most popular events is held at the Biltmore Hotel Ballroom in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office, the University of Rhode Island’s Harrington School of Communication and Media; the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Film at Providence College, Johnson and Wales University College of Arts & Sciences and Roger Williams University. From an exclusive interview with Maya Forbes, the writer/director of “Infinitely Polar Bear,” to a conversation with Academy-Award® nominated filmmakers to a focus on women filmmakers including Aly Migliori, Bat Sheva and Eleanor Wilson and co-hosted by actress, Marlyn Mason. The Forum promises to be a Festival highlight.

SCRIPTBIZ™ SCREENPLAY PITCH SEMINAR returns to RIFF this year showcasing this year's Grand Prize Screenplay Competition winner “DISPOSSESSED” written by: George Billiard, from Eldred, New York. The SCRIPTBIZ workshop is a great place for aspiring screenwriters looking to make an impact with their work by receiving constructive critique and advice from people with experience in the field. The director of the program is a former SCRIPTBIZ winner, William Torgerson, Assistant Professor, Institute for Writing Studies, St. John's University, Queens, NY. Panelists will include writer Chris Sparling, writer Tatiana Siegel of The Hollywood Reporter, educator Andrew Lund, award-winning cinematographer/director, John Inwood, writer/director, Michele Meek and actor, Michael Cuomo.

Last year, Flickers was one of 10 festivals awarded a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for special programming. The grant will support Flickers’ Short Film Retrospective: “JOURNEYS IN FILMMAKING” a look back at films that have played at the Festival over the past 18 years and have gone on to be nominated or win an Academy Award®. The grant allows for screenings of Oscar®-nominated and winning shorts previously screened or discovered at RIFF, post Q&A discussions and a special master class featuring a panel of award-winning filmmakers and scholars.

Up-and-coming filmmakers in attendance to the 2015 festival would have the opportunity to learn from this panel in a master class setting. This panel would focus on the development and evolution of the short films, the process in which filmmakers take to make it in the industry and the growing importance of the short film genre.

LGBTQ SYMPOSIUM: CHARACTERS IN CONFLICT, a focus on the treatment of LGBTQ characters in film. The Symposium will be composed of distinguished filmmakers, scholars, and members of the LGBTQ community and include screenings of documentary and narrative films that address the topic of the treatment of LGBTQ characters in film. Participants will learn how media literacy can be part of their personal toolkit in bringing about change. Additionally, members of the LGBTQ community will have the opportunity to participate in film screenings and a mini-Expo that introduces LGBTQ nonprofit and community-based organizations to the greater community.

Interactive networking events will be held nightly during the span of the six-day festival including the popular Block Party at the Dark Lady in downtown Providence which last year drew over 1,500 participants. This year the Festival will again partner with other Providence Arts organization such as AS220’s “FOO FEST”, making the week of the Festival an unparalleled Celebration of Film, Arts and Culture.

EXPERIENCE CREATIVE PROVIDENCE & DARK LADY BLOCK PARTY is a special Festival collaboration linking artistic events that take place in the city of Providence on Saturday, August 9th as a way to introduce not just Festival audiences, but visiting filmmakers, to the rich culture and arts.
programming of the capital city. Audiences are encouraged not only to take in premiere film work, but to savor the sounds of AS220’s Foo Fest, take in the RISD Museum and to close the evening out at the Dark Lady, 16-17 Snow Street for the Festival’s annual Block Party where they can mingle with visiting filmmakers.

MORE ABOUT THE FESTIVAL & SPECIAL AWARDS

RIIFF encourages all entrants and accepted filmmakers to attend the Festival, and offers all-access passes, reduced rates on area hotels, inns and B&B’s, restaurant and local business discounts. There is even an option for filmmakers to stay free of charge with community hosts. The Festival awards over $50,000 USD worth in prizes to winning filmmakers, including software, scholarships, consulting, and production services. This year’s top prize from Panavision is worth $10,000 in equipment.

The Festival is not short on awards that recognize and honor those in the industry and arts. This year’s awards will be presented throughout the week and include following:

RIIFF is not short on awards that recognize and honor those in the industry and arts. The Festival offers a variety of prestigious awards to some of the most talented artists in the business. The Festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Oscar-nominated actors Seymour Cassel and Cicely Tyson, Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine, and acclaimed legends of stage and screen, Theo Bikel, Ken Howard, Paul Sorvino, Blake Edwards and Patricia Neal. The festival’s Crystal Image and Crystal Image Awards have been awarded to talents including Blythe Danner, Carol Patton, Federico Castelluccio, Rosa von Praunheim, Zach Braff, Jonathan Katz, Rupert Friend, Ioan Gruffudd, Michael Showalter, C.J. Adams, Robert Capron, composer Klaus Badelt, and children’s book author Sandra Boynton.

DEDICATION

This year’s Festival is dedicated to the memory of last year’s Lifetime Achievement Award-winner, Theodore (Theo) Bikel, Austrian-American actor, folk singer, musician, composer and activist. From folk to opera, from “The Defiant Ones,” which earned him an Oscar nomination, to “Fiddler in the Roof” (he played Tevye on stage more than 2,000 times), Mr. Bikel was the consummate and beloved performer. He spent his lifetime fighting on behalf of civil rights, social justice, peace and a better life for all. Born in Vienna in 1924, he was one-of-a-kind: a rare combination of Hollywood star, troubadour, and humanist.

GEORGE M. COHAN AMBASSADOR AWARD

The prestigious award will then be presented to Lynne McCormack of the Providence’s Art, Culture + Tourism. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose work, passion, and drive epitomizes a level of excellence in the arts. 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.

ROBERT BURGESS ALDRICH AWARD

Presented to Chris Sparling during the Annual Rhode Island Film Forum. Presented semi-annually to an outstanding Rhode Island artist whose vision and passion reflects that Robert Burgess Aldrich, of Cranston, R.I., a successful director of many feature films and utilized a variety of genres to tell his stories. His films included “The Longest Yard,” “The Dirty Dozen,” “Flight of the Phoenix,” “Hush,” and countless others. Robert Aldrich began his career in Cranston, RI, and ultimately rose in the Hollywood ranks to be the President of the Directors Guild of America, serving from 1975-1979. This Award is presented to a director who has begun his career in Rhode
Island and is following in the footsteps of Robert Aldrich, preparing to make a lasting mark on the industry.

Presented jointly in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office.

RIIFF GRAND PRIZE SCREENPLAY AWARD
Flickers annually adjudicates a Screenplay Competition concurrently with the RI Film Festival. Last year, 396 submissions were received from throughout the United States and across the globe. The Grand Prize winner was George Billiard (New York) for his screenplay “Dispossessed.”

PRODUCER’S CIRCLE AWARDS
Presented to members of the community who have actively worked to support and promote the mission of Flickers. This year’s winners include:
• Barbara Barnes, RI Historical Society
• Pamela Kimel, RISD Museum; Louise Moulton, Providence Public Library
• Ellen Loconto, Just Ellen’s Catering and Event Planning
• Louise Moulton, Providence Public Library

THE FILMS SCHEDULED TO PLAY RIIFF 2015
This year’s Opening Night Gala will feature a collection of World and North American premieres of the world’s finest shorts, curated from thousands of entries that came our way this year.

The full Opening Night line up features (in order of presentation):
• Fulfilament | Directed by: Rhiannon Evans, 7 min. United Kingdom, 2015, US PREMIERE
• Ausstieg Rechts (Exit Right) | Directed by: Rupert Höller, 6 min. Germany, 2015, US PREMIERE
• We Live This | Directed by: James Burns, 10 min. United States, 2015
• D. Asian | Directed by: Sarah Smith, 10 min. United States, 2015
• Theodora | Directed by Henry Chaisson, 6 min. United States, 2015, World Premiere
• More Than God | Directed by: Kev Cahill, 8 min. Ireland, 2015, US Premiere
• The Baby | Directed by: Ali Asgari, 15 min. Italy, Iran, 2014, US Premiere
• Rest Stop | Directed by: Kate Herron, 11 min. United Kingdom, 2015, World Premiere
• The House Is Innocent | Directed by: Nicholas Coles, 12 min. United States, 2015
• Tarim le Brave Contre Les Mille et un Effets (Tarim the Brave Against The Thousand and One Effects) | Directed by: Guillaume Rieu, 18 min. France, 2014, US Premiere

The films screened at this year’s Festival will not be short on name actors and other talent gracing the screen or working behind the camera. A sampling includes:
Felton ("How I Didn’t Become A Piano Player"), "Raise The Toygantic" Directed by Gail Lerner with Phil LaMarr, Jonathan Groff, and Kurtwood Smith.

ADDITIONAL STAND OUT FILMS:

“Monty Python: The Meaning of Live,” directed by James Rogan and Roger Graef. This is a uniquely intimate documentary about comedy’s original super group, capturing the most anticipated comeback show in comedy. It follows the stars of Monty Python as they reunite for a final time to stage a marathon ten shows of Monty Python Live (mostly) – One Down Five to Go at The O2, London in July 2014.

“Unbranded,” directed by Philip Baribeau. Four young men take an unprecedented journey on adopted mustangs from the Mexican to the Canadian border through the backcountry of deserts and mountains. Their goal: to prove the worth of the iconic horses that are the subject of often bitter controversy. As they cover the 3000 miles of often unforgiving landscapes, the riders succumb to the contradictory tensions of camaraderie and rivalry. Filmed almost exclusively by first-time feature director Phillip Baribeau, who was with the riders every mile of the way. As with so many Western films, Unbranded's story is a metaphor for the decisive actions needed to preserve wild places and their animals and personal and political conflicts that threaten these national treasures.

“My Father’s Vietnam,” directed by Soren Sorensen. A personal documentary about a public subject, My Father’s Vietnam personifies the connections made and unmade by the Vietnam War. Featuring never-before-seen photographs and 8mm footage of the era, My Father’s Vietnam is the story of three soldiers, only one of whom returned home alive.

“Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi” directed by Neil Broffman. A fragile and depressed university student disappears from his apartment on a cold winter’s night. Four weeks later his name and photo explode across social media and into the mainstream media as ‘Suspect #2’ in the Boston Marathon bombings. The search for truth derails with tragic consequences as collective fear and suspicion rain down upon a vulnerable family.

“Generosity of Eye,” directed by Brad Hall. The documentary Generosity Of Eye is the surprising story of a major art collection transforming into education for African American kids in the Harlem Children’s Zone. It is the very personal tale of actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus discovering how her father William’s passions for art, justice and education connect in a single act of generosity.

“Angel of Nanjing,” directed by Rhode Islanders Jordan Horowitz and Frank Ferendo. The Yangtze River Bridge in Nanjing is one of the most famous bridges in China. It is also the most popular place in the world to commit suicide. For the past 11 years Chen Si has been patrolling this bridge, looking to provide aid for those who have gone there to end their lives. Incredibly, he has saved over 300 people since he began - nearly one every two weeks.

“Hope City,” directed by David Angell. A feature length Documentary Film that chronicles the lives of the residents of a tent city in Providence, R.I., who struggle with the daily life of being homeless while trying to better their lives.

“Aside from That,” directed by Richard Tilkin. Aside From That: A Film About Everyone’s Least Favorite Topic: How do we live, knowing we are going to die? Is there a best practice for thinking about mortality? We pose these questions to random pedestrians as well as philosophers, academics, and clerics. But at the heart of our film are three extraordinary people: a terminally ill poet determined to become a clown; a medical student facing 50/50 odds of survival; and a
war veteran whose experiences erase his fear of death.

“Happygram,” directed by Julie Marron. Happygram explores the deadly impact of withholding material medical information from 40 million women each year who obtain screening mammograms for the early detection of cancer. For the 40% of these women who have dense breast tissue (15 million women), mammograms are an ineffective screening tool, missing up to 75% of cancers in dense tissue. Each year, thousands of these women die as a result of the missed cancer.

“A Magic-Lantern Life: The Story of the American Magic-Lantern Theater,” directed by Peter O’Neill and Marcin Gizycki. The film documents the performances and history of The American Magic-Lantern Theater, a troupe that recreates the 19th century spectacles of magic lantern shows - he live projected productions that preceded cinema over 100 years ago. AMLT, based in Connecticut, consists of two people, usually Terry Borton, founder and showman, and lead singer Nancy Stewart. The company has been performing for 20 years, is the only professional magic-lantern theater in the US, and is one of the only three existing in the world.

“Abuse in Philly,” directed by Ken Gumbert. The sensational church sex abuse scandal in Philly landed 3 priests and a teacher in prison. This film explores the constitutional rights of these defendants questioning even the accusations themselves. You are the judge.

“Vanishing Sail,” directed by Alexis Andrews. Alwyn Enoe is one of the last boatbuilders practicing a trade passed down the generations from the original Scottish settlers that arrived in the 19th century. He is approaching his 70s and with no more orders coming in, he decides to build one last sailing sloop with the hope that his sons will continue the trade.

For a complete festival guide of films to be screened this year, visit http://riiff2015.sched.org/

Sponsors for the 2015 Festival include: Lexus Short Films, ABC6, the Rhode Island Film & Television Office, Linchpin Design, Eurochannel, Edge Media, CW28, The Rhode Island Foundation: Equity Action, RISD Museum, UniFrance, Panavision, Pfizer, Dominion Diagnostics, The Rhode Island Council on the Arts (RISCA); Sony; IMDB.com, Rule Boston Camera, Délégation du Québec à Boston, Tourism Québec, PMA Industries, Cox Media, Decadent Catering, Newport Storm, Quality Rental, Just Ellen’s Catering and Event Planning, Consulat de France à Boston, Amtrak, Enterprise, The Vets, The Providence Tourism Council, the University of Rhode Island (URI), The Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI: Roger Williams University, Hotel Providence, The Dean Hotel, The Providence Biltmore, ZipCar, Uber, The Pell Center at Salve Regina University’s Story in the Public Square, Johnson and Wales University, Providence College, Roger Williams University, newenglandfilm.com, The City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture + Tourism, and The Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor’s Bureau

More information on the Festival, including advance ticket sales for screenings or special events, plus student, group, and senior discounts, can be found at www.RIFilmFest.org. You can also write to RIFF, 83 Park Street, Suite 5, Providence, RI 02903; call 401-861-4445; email: info@film-festival.org.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:
The FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF) has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and
audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. There are 19 film festivals worldwide which share this distinction and RIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about RIFF, please visit www.RIFilmFest.org.

For more information about the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival, running August 4-9, 2015 at The Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) and The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at www.RIFilmFest.org or call 401.861.4445.

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