

**RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
**2006 LOCATION DAY-BY-DAY CALENDAR**  
**CABLE CAR CINEMA, SOUTH MAIN STREET, PROVIDENCE**

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**"BETWEEN TAKES...Filmmakers' Forum"**

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

**Topic: "When You Have a Great Idea, But No Money"**

Speaker: Paul Roselli

So you got this great idea for a video marketing program or a training piece but no money. You got a small grant but can't seem to find anyone to help you produce the program you know will make a difference at a price you can afford. So what do you do? Paul A. Roselli from Corporate Film & Video Productions has worked on marketing, training feature and documentary films for over 20 years. His work has appeared in films, television programs, marketing pieces, museums, and more. Paul works with non-profit organizations to help them get the message out in an affordable way. Learn how to work with producers over time, how to use interns effectively, how to develop and write the best plan for production, script writing techniques to make the project affordable, and how best to get the product you want.

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**STU POLLARD RETROSPECTIVE: FILMS THAT HAD THEIR WORLD PREMIERE AT RIFF**

**"Nice Guys Sleep Alone"**

Stu Pollard, director

92 min. USA, 1999

A young man (Sean O'Bryan) in Louisville sees his dating failures are related to his always being nice. All of his dates end up going with the rude, obnoxious guys. Deciding to change his ways, he goes after a new acquaintance (Sybil Temchen), who unfortunately is tired of the male bores she meets and is seeking Mr. Right - the rose-bearing guy who wants to be nice to her.

**7:15 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Stu Pollard Retrospective**

**"Keep your Distance"**

Stu Pollard, director

92 min. USA, 2005

In the perfectly normal town of Louisville, KY, there is a perfectly normal man living the perfect life. GIL BELLOWS stars as David Dailey - a man who has it all: A great career, a community that adores him, and an enduring marriage. But beneath the surface, David's idyllic world is crumbling. He's haunted by a series of mysterious notes that warn of an imminent fall from grace. His sultry wife Susan (KIM RAVEN) is hell-bent on expanding the horizons of their sex life - with or without him. His longtime assistant Whit (JAMIE HARROLD) is gunning for his job. And he finds himself increasingly attracted to Melody Carpenter (JENNIFER

WESTFELDT), a curious stranger he instinctively trusts because she doesn't know him well enough to betray him. Complicating matters, Melody's jilted boyfriend Sean (CHRISTIAN KANE), a charming and talented trust fund baby, regards David and Melody's fledgling friendship with contempt. As his jealousy seethes deeper, he concocts a devious plan to win her back, unaware his overly protective father (STACY KEACH) has ordered his number one ally (ELIZABETH PEÑA) to keep an eye on everyone involved. As David and Melody grow closer, they discover they have much in common - including the maddening suspicion they're each being stalked - and are plunged into a harrowing web of desire, deceit, and paranoia. Suddenly, the man everyone loves fears everyone has a reason to bring him down. As his perfect life veers further and further off course, David is about to learn that the biggest danger of having it all is having everything to lose.

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### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **"BETWEEN TAKES...Filmmakers' Forum"**

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### **Topic: "Fund Your Film! INDIE FILM FINANCING WORKSHOP"**

Speaker: Stu Pollard

If you're ready to make a feature film but you're lacking that critical element of MONEY, this workshop is for you. Hosted by indie filmmaker Stu Pollard (Keep Your Distance, Nice Guys Sleep Alone), this workshop explains how to put together private equity financing for truly independent productions. Subjects covered include forming companies, writing business plans, divulging risk factors, finding and tracking investor prospects, selling shares in your film, and communicating with investors once they're on board.

*On both "Nice Guys Sleep Alone" and "Keep Your Distance," Pollard shouldered writing, directing, and fund-raising duties. He is presently working as one of the producers on LA Film Festival Audience Award winner Ira & Abby, for which he wrote the business plan and designed the film's official website. He is also exec producing Dirty Country, a documentary about a colorful country singer named Larry Pierce that is being directed by Found Footage Festival founders Nick Prueher and Joe Pickett. He also acts as a consultant on other projects, specializing in distribution and private equity financing. Collectively, his business plans have raised more than \$5 million in production funds.*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

#### **Topic: "Selling Your Dream – Creating Trailers & Promos in the A/V Marketplace"**

Speaker: Chris Arnold

A 1 hr. seminar will begin with a brief history of movie marketing and the evolution of the trailer as the world's most successful and popular form of advertising. Chris Arnold, the founder of "Cimarron," one of the largest trailer companies in Hollywood, will share stories, anecdotes, and secrets of motion picture marketing learned from 25 years in the trenches creating such well AV campaigns as "Jaws," "Taxi Driver," "Close Encounters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kind," "Basic

Instinct," "Terminator 2," "Unforgiven" and many more. He will discuss the process of creating a promo from concept to copy writing and finally into the editing room. Along the way he will explore the many styles, tricks and techniques that are used to sell you idea, promote your project, put butts in seat, and generally "sell almost anything to almost anyone."

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Feature**

**"The Amateurs"**

Michael Traeger, director

97 min. USA, 2005

Cast • Jeff Bridges, Tim Blake Nelson, Joe Pantoliano, Glenna Headly, Ted Danson, Patrick Fugit, William Fichtner, Lauren Graham, John Hawkes, Jeanne Tripplehorn Steven Weber & Valerie Perrine

Michael Traeger's directorial debut *The Amateurs* is a hilarious, sexy comedy about this small town's attempt to make what becomes the world's most innocent adult film. The quest begins innocently enough with Andy (Jeff Bridges) seeing that sex is everywhere; in the paper, all over town, everywhere. It's a multi-billion dollar industry, and better yet, one of its more popular forms is the amateur variety. And Andy and his friends are indeed amateurs, so why shouldn't they be able to strike it rich in this booming industry? *The Amateurs* is a sweetly comic film that plays with the conventions of filmmaking and the movie business all while having fun with its good-hearted characters.

*One of the cast members will be in attendance.*

**7:00 – 8:45 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"Land of the Blind"**

Robert Edwards, Director

102 min. 2006

Cast • Ralph Fiennes, Lara Flynn Boyle, Donald Sutherland, Tom Hollander  
*New England Premiere*

A tyrannical monarch who represses free speech and thinks little of his citizenry is ultimately overthrown by a radical rebellion that promises to return power to the people. However, in this post-revolutionary world, do the new leaders create a better society or do they simply become just like those they replaced? History shows that we could be describing any number of events: the Bolshevik Revolution and the formation of the Soviet Union; the rise of the Nazis in Germany; Castro's overthrow of Batista in Cuba; the Ayatollah Khomeini's overthrow of the Shah of Iran; and the advent of the Taliban in Afghanistan. Each of these major geopolitical and social earthquakes took shape thanks to nationalistic movements growing out of the depths of oppression. Similar events create the backdrop for first-time feature writer/director Robert Edwards' startling political satire *Land of the Blind*, in which Ralph Fiennes plays a soldier who begins questioning his government after he befriends a political prisoner (Donald Sutherland). When the soldier helps the dissident overthrow the government, he soon discovers the truth in the old dictum: absolute power does, in fact, corrupt

absolutely. *Land of the Blind* takes place in an unnamed country during an unspecified time period, but its all too timely look at terrorism and revolution-encapsulated within the framework of a memory play-will seem eerily familiar to most. Edwards has created a stylish and complex drama that captivates from its opening moments and keeps its audience thinking long after the credits roll.

## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>**

### **LOCATION: CABLE CAR CINEMA, PROVIDENCE**

**5:00 p.m.**

#### **Feature Presentation:**

##### **“Open Window”**

Mia Goldman, director

97 min. USA, 2005

*Cast • Robin Tunney, Joel Edgerton, Cybill Shepherd, Elliott Gould & Scott Wilson*

Izzy is a struggling young photographer. Peter is an assistant professor at a university in Los Angeles. Newly engaged and madly in love, they find their cozy world shattered by a random act of violence. Their respective parents, the idiosyncratic Arlene and sportswriter John, and Peter's mercurial father, Eddie, weave their way through their children's lives and it soon becomes clear that irrevocable losses have touched not only Izzy and Peter, but their entire circle of relationships. Long-hidden emotions rise to the surface as the trauma turns into a complex test of Izzy and Peter's relationship.

**7:00 – 8:45 p.m.**

#### **Feature Presentation:**

##### **“Wil”**

Jeremy Weinstein, Director

82 min. Australia 2006

##### **World Premiere**

Wil, finds himself in a dead-end accounting job where the rhythm of repetition is the soundtrack to his life. Just when things couldn't get worse, they do – he gets offered a promotion that will lock him in for the next decade of his life. Given a minute to think, Wil delves into his psyche, which he imagines is a corporate elevator. As his mind jumps from thought to thought so does the landscape within the elevator. 'Wil', a visually rich, light-hearted, philosophical, tale explores things we think about constantly; money, relationships, family, identity and what makes us truly happy.

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**1:00-2:45 p.m.**

#### **Feature Presentation:**

##### **“Lassie”**

Roadside Attractions/Samuel Goldwyn Films

Charles Sturridge, Director-screenwriter

100 min. United Kingdom 2005

*Cast: Peter O'Toole, Samantha Morton, John Lynch, Steve Pemberton, Jonathan Mason, and Peter Dinklage*

LASSIE is a heartwarming and moving adventure that does excellent justice to the classic character. Sensitively written and directed by veteran British filmmaker Charles Sturridge. "Lassie" was recently showcased in the Family Festival section of the Tribeca Film Festival.

The filmmaker has assembled a sterling cast for this remake, set -- as was the original novel -- on the eve of World War II in a Yorkshire mining town. The opening scene, depicting a group of upper-crust hunters pursuing a fox only to be foiled by Lassie, well establishes the class conflicts that form the subtext of the story.

Lassie is a part of the hard-pressed Carraclough family, including coal miner Sam (John Lynch); his loving wife, Sarah (Samantha Morton); and their 9-year-old son, Joe (Jonathan Mason). When hard times hit, the family is forced to sell their beloved dog to the high-toned Duke of Rudling (Peter O'Toole), who wants her for his granddaughter (Hester Odgers).

The adventures of the indefatigable collie are alternately amusing, thrilling and heartbreaking and are beautifully realized by the filmmaker's classical approach. The actors essay their roles with the utmost conviction, with particularly sterling work by the slyly funny O'Toole and child actor Mason. A gallery of estimable performers makes cameo appearances, including Edward Fox, Kelly MacDonal and, most effectively, Peter Dinklage as a kindly puppeteer who takes Lassie under his wing.

Best of all, of course, is the canine, or number of canines, in the title role. A worthy successor to the dog's cinematic and television forebears, this Lassie is bound to induce a run on pet stores and dog breeders everywhere.

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"The Trouble with Dee Dee"**

Michael Meiners, director

80 min., USA, 2006

**East Coast Premiere**

The story of an eccentric socialite with a knack for pulling off hopelessly wild adventures who struggles when she finds herself disowned by her millionaire father and abandoned by her teenage son, *The Trouble with Dee Dee* is a new take on parents and children that frustrates, amuses and warms the heart. At once shocking and endearing, Dee Dee overcomes her rough exterior to draw people in with her childlike joy of life and her heart of gold. The movie attacks our knee-jerk reaction to write people off when they don't adhere to accepted social norms, by enticing us to stick with a character we might otherwise have turned away, with a feeling that we might be pleasantly surprised.

**5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"Forgiven"**

Paul Fitzgerald, director  
83 min. USA 2006

**East Coast Premiere**

*Cast • Kate Jennings Grant, Russell Hornsby, Susan Floyd & Paul Fitzgerald*

FORGIVEN is set in the cross hairs of a contemporary American society where the idiom of religious beliefs penetrates the dialogue of politics, where private lives are public, and where factors such as race, class and economic standing affect the ways in which punishment is meted out by our legal system. Set against the stark backdrop of the ever-increasing chasm of misunderstanding and vitriol between persons separated by social and economic differences, FORGIVEN is a story about the essential need for accountability from those in positions of power. The greater question that ultimately emerges, however, is how the individual in society may leave the shadows of attachment to one's personal truth and perspective, in order to more clearly see the 'other' in his midst.

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Feature Presentation:**

**"Dreamland"**

Jason Matzner, Director

88 min. USA 2006

*Cast • John Corbett, Agnes Bruckner, Justin Long, Kelli Garner & Gina Gershon*

Jason Matzner's woozily romantic, gorgeously lensed directorial debut about a trailer park love triangle unspool in a dream of its own, and it is pretty intoxicating.

The title refers to both a small desert community of mobile homes in New Mexico and the suppressed passions of one of its loveliest residents. A recent high school grad, 18-year-old Audrey (Agnes Bruckner) spends most of her days working at the local mini-mart and taking care of her relatively young but sickly dad (John Corbett), who hasn't left home since Audrey's mother died. John Corbett's nuanced portrayal of Audrey's concerned but agoraphobic father is an amazing acting feat.

**Midnight – 2:30 a.m.**

**International Horror Feature:**

**"The Great Yokai War"**

Takashi Miike, director

90 min., JAPAN, 2006

*Cast: Ryunosuke Kamiki, Chiaki Kuriyama, Etsushi Toyokawa, Hiroyuki Miyasako*

It's tough being ten year old Tadashi (Ryunosuke KAMIKI). His mom just got a divorce and moved him and his Grandfather from Tokyo to small town Japan, where all the kids at his new school pick on him. To make things worse, his Grandpa is starting to go a bit crazy and keeps running away and forgetting who Tadashi is!

One night, Tadashi wanders into a creepy local festival and is knocked on the head by a man in a dragon costume. Someone tells him this means he has been chosen "Kirin Rider," the defender of justice and peace. There is a legend that

the Kirin Rider must climb a nearby mountain and claim a legendary sword, guarded by the Great Goblin.

Remembering the bullies at school calling him a crybaby, Tadashi is determined to climb the mountain, but he gets scared half-way and runs home. On the bus ride home, he meets Sunekosuri, a small cat-like sprite that only Tadashi can see. He realizes that Sunekosuri is a Yokai, a magical creature from Japanese folklore. All of a sudden, Tadashi can see more Yokai looking into the bus windows! The next evening, Tadashi hears his Grandpa calling for help from the Goblin Mountain. Forgetting his fears, Tadashi rushes to his Grandfather's aid and into the biggest adventure of his life...

Meanwhile, a great evil called Yomotsumono has been re-awakened, threatening to devour humanity and turn the good Yokai into evil mechanical monsters to do its bidding. Aiding this monster is the evil spirit Kato (Etsushi TOYOKAWA) and Agi (Chiaki KURIYAMA), a traitor Yokai whose love for the evil Kato compels her to turn against the good spirits. She catches them with her white whip and helps turn them into monsters that ransack Japan. Only Tadashi the Kirin Rider and his sword can save the world from this menace, with some help from his Yokai friends!

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

**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**