

RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photographs are available upon request

THE PROVIDENCE GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO RHODE ISLAND AUGUST 8-13TH, 2006

*Popular sidebar of the Rhode Island International Film
Festival to showcase 24 LGBT titles throughout the week*

(PROVIDENCE, RI) The **Providence Gay and Lesbian Film Festival™** at the **Rhode Island International Film Festival™** (RIIFF) is back for another year! For the past ten years, films made by, for and about the LGBT community have played an integral role in the RIIFF, one of New England's premiere film festivals. This year, RIIFF is pleased to announce its partnership with **RI Pride** in presenting this special sidebar.

"We are very honored to be working with RI Pride not only in the creation and selection phases of the films we will be screening during the **Providence Gay and Lesbian Film Festival™** this year," said RIIFF Managing Director, Philip Capobres, "but in how the films have been scheduled throughout the week.

"One of our major goals has been to seamlessly integrate these exceptional films with non-LGBT films in order to introduce general audiences to work they might not otherwise see. The 24 films selected to represent this popular sidebar have been spread throughout the festival and not locked into one time zone nor screening location.

"It is not only our firm belief, but the actual motto of the film festival, that 'through communications comes understanding.' Given the times in which we live," added Capobres, "we feel that the message we are sending is one of inclusiveness."

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival™**, will take place August 8th through 13th, 2006. Ranked as a one of the Top 12 Film Festivals in the United States, this world-class festival will be held at venues around Providence. It features screenings, filmmaking workshops, meet-and-greet industry events and seminars.

Aiming to promote Rhode Island as a filmmaking location and to celebrate the independent filmmaking spirit, RIIFF also hosts a number of high-profile premières and provides a showcase for international features, documentaries, and shorts.

Founded in 1997, the Rhode Island International Film Festival has quickly carved out a name for itself. It accepts films of any type, in any genre and screens around 200 international productions. Rhode Island native Bobby Farrelly was so impressed with the festival's debut that he held the world première of his next film, *There's Something About Mary*, at the 1998 event.

The festival is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for “artistic interaction and exchange among independent filmmakers, Directors, producers, distributors, backers and the film-going community”. It is a safe haven for all independent filmmakers—a place where they can find freedom from all the M13's, overblown CGI effects and high concept reinterpretations of classic films.

In 2005, RIIFF screened over 272 titles in six days to appreciative crowds of over 21,000 people; making it the largest festival in New England. This year, RIIFF will screen 282 films; selected from more than 2,000 submissions. From these, more than 90% of the RIIFF schedule has been created; and not culled or curated from other festivals. This makes for a truly dynamic event where regional audiences discover original work and new filmmakers whose work often goes overlooked or underground.

RIIFF is the largest Film Festival in New England. Celebrating the art of film has always been a critical part of the Rhode Island International Film Festival a factor that has solidified **RIIFF's** reputation as a filmmaker-friendly event.

Special guests scheduled to attend this year's festival include actresses *Cicely Tyson, Tiffany Thiessen, Tori Spelling, Mena Suvari, Alicia Witt* actor *David Strathairn, Heather Henson, daughter of Jim Henson, Jason Priestely, Joe Pantoliano, Randy Spelling, Cady Huffman, actress/singer Lisa Zane, composer Andrew Chuckerman, actor Adrian Grenier, actress Carmen Electra, and young actor Preston Nyman*, the star of the “Foster” who is flying in from the United Kingdom to attend the US Premiere of his film.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for artistic interaction and exchange among independent filmmakers, directors, producers, distributors, backer, and the film-going community. Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri, Providence Mayor David M. Cicilline, and US Senator Jack Reed serve as honorary chairs to this year's event. During the 2006 event, over 270 films will be presented.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is supported in part by the *City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, Clear Channel Communications, Sony, Rule Broadcast Systems, WJAR TV 10, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, Providence Monthly, Radio Disney, Feinstein IMAX Providence Place, UPN28,*

Delta Airlines, WBRU Radio, Showcase Cinemas Providence Place and contributions from members and community supporters.

The Rhode Island International Film Festival runs August 8-13, 2006. Most tickets, aside from special events, are \$10. The Festival website is www.rifilmfest.org and the office phone is (401) 861-4445. The Festival office is based at the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway, Providence, RI.

RIIFF 2006 LGBT VENUES

Columbus Theatre Arts Center

270 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903

401.621.9660

800 seats downstairs; 200 seats upstairs www.columbustheatre.com

Cable Car Cinema

204 South Main St. Providence, RI 02903

401.272.3970

140 capacity, www.cablecarcinema.com

Castle Cinema

1039 Chalkstone Avenue, Providence, RI

401.861-4445

220 seats, two theatres

LGBT FEATURES

Friday, August 11, 2006; 9:15 p.m., Columbus Theatre Arts Center

BOY CULTURE

Q. Allan Brocka, Director

85 min. USA 2006

Rhode Island Premiere

RIIFF Board member, Q. Allan Brocka's whip-smart *Boy Culture*, fresh from its North American premiere in Tribeca Film Festival only days before it screens in Miami, cuts down to the gay bone with zero tolerance for bullshit in an up-to-the-minute way. Finding it difficult to negotiate the intersection of sex and love in 2006's gay singles scene? You'll find company with the studly "nuclear reactor family" of 3 sassy-in-Seattle gay roommates, headed by X (Derek Magyar), a 25-year-old high-end call boy with a slick and tight roster of 12 discreet well-to-do clients. X is secretly smitten with his late-twenty something roommate Andrew (played by the Darryl Stephens, star of "Noah's Arc"), only recently out of the closet and still tentatively dipping his toes in the gay whirlpool. Joey, an 18-year-old cutie party boy whom X allows to live rent-free out of guilt for rejecting Joey's near-daily amorous advances, occupies bedroom #3. X is a complicated case, "a whore who's not a slut" and hasn't had sex outside of his professional duties since the age of 12. He meets his match in a new client, the 79-year-old Geezer (played with elegance and grace by Belgian actor Patrick Bauchau), who pays X not to have sex with him until X desires Geezer as much as Geezer desires X.

Got mind game? *Boy Culture* asks gay men of any age: How in touch are you with yourself as a sexual being? *Boy Culture* is hip, witty, sexy, and tough-minded, and it movingly declares sincerity to be the biggest gift of all.

Director in attendance

Wednesday, August 9, 2006; 9:00 p.m., Columbus Cinematheque

COFFEE DATE

Stewart Wade, Director

93 min. USA 2006

New England Premiere

Cast • Deborah Gibson, Elaine Hendrix, Jason Stuart, Jonathan Bray, Jonathan Silverman, Leigh Taylor Young, Sally Kirkland & Wilson Cruz

Stewart Wade's Directorial debut is a winning comedy about a practical joke that spins wildly and enjoyably out of control. Thanks to his slacker brother Barry (Jonathan Silverman), Todd (Jonathan Bray), a straight guy, ends up on a blind date with Kelly (*My So-Called Life's* Wilson Cruz), a gay man. Despite the awkward circumstances, the two hit it off and decide to take revenge on Barry by pretending to have really hit it off – Todd brings Kelly home and convinces his brother he's gay. But when Barry tells their mother (Sally Kirkland), she arrives on the scene, desperate to convince Todd (and herself) that she's really, really ok with his homosexuality. Despite his protestations, soon everyone believes he's gay, including work colleagues Clayton (Jason Stuart) and Melissa (Deborah Gibson), leading Todd to wonder if he might actually be interested in Kelly after all...

Sunday, August 13, 2006; 7:00 p.m., Cable Car Cinema

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

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 9:00 p.m., Castle Cinema

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP

Rob Williams, writer/Director

97 min. USA 2006

New England Premiere

Cast • *Matthew Montgomery, Windham Beacham, Artie O'Daly, Jeremy Lucas, Bret Wolfe & Judy Farrell*

Out of all the gay men in Los Angeles (and sadly, he's tested out more than a few), Glenn (played by Matthew Montgomery) has finally found his soul mate -- a cute Southern boy named Adam (Windham Beacham). Their relationship started, as so many great relationships have, with the personal ads ("GWM seeks LTR"). From the moment they met, it was instant attraction. Now Glenn's in love for the first time, and it feels great.

There's only one problem. Well, actually a few problems. But are they big enough to be deal-breakers, or can Glenn and Adam work through their differences?

Glenn's straight friends encourage him to stick it out and make it work -- after all, everyone's happier as part of a couple, right? Meanwhile, his gay friends tell him to move on and find someone they can all like.

Ultimately, only Glenn and Adam can decide what it takes to sustain a long-term relationship.

Long-Term Relationship is the first feature from writer/Director Rob Williams. A classic romantic comedy with appeal to both gay and straight audiences, *Long-Term Relationship* celebrates the power of true love. Filming was completed in January 2006. Look for *Long-Term Relationship* at film festivals later in the year

Wednesday, August 9, 2006; 5:00 p.m., Jane Pickens Theatre, Newport

SCARED NEW WORLD

Chris Brown, Director

81 min. USA 2005

Cast • *Fanny Ara-Herms, Harriet Schiffer-Scott, Josh Millican, Lena Zee & Zachary Schramm*

East Coast Premiere

A tough, strong and unforgettable film.

Alma, a pot-dealing single mother, coasts through each day with little care and motivation until she meets a cancer patient in need of medical marijuana. Vargas, her roommate and friend for over a decade, works intensely in his room on a literary project that no one has seen and that in his words will 'change literature as we know it.' Moving into their Oakland apartment is Penny, a 19-year-old French foreign exchange student, in love with California and on her own for the first time. Embracing newfound freedoms, she explores her sexuality through two separate relationships -- one with a man, the other with a woman. 'Scared New World' is the story of three lives, separate but intertwined, trying to find balance in unstable times.

Thursday, August 10, 2006; 7:15 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

WHOLE NEW THING

Amnon Buchbinder, Director
92 min. Canada, 2005, 35mm
A Picture This! Releasing film.

(Outfest: Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, OUTstanding International Narrative Feature)

Brimming with dry wit and sensuality, *Whole New Thing* depicts the many life changes occurring around Emerson Thorsen, a precocious thirteen-year-old thrust from his hippie home school environment into the odd world of public school. Having a mature confidence and intellect unusual for his age, Emerson grows close to his attractive older English teacher Mr Grant (Daniel MacIvor), a private man struggling with a proclivity for bathroom encounters. Meanwhile, his seemingly carefree parents' bedroom troubles come to a head through Emerson's growing obsession with Mr. Grant. Amnon Buchbinder is a fresh, smart, and sweet coming-of-age story about family, love, lust and missed connections.

LGBT DOCUMENTARIES

Friday, August 11, 2006; 7:15 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

BOB AND JACK'S 52-YEAR ADVENTURE

Stu Maddux, Director
42 min. USA 2006

World Premiere

In 1952 an Army sergeant was cornered and courted, by his commanding officer. Their romance grew and then grew too obvious. Rumors became anonymous tips to headquarters. They avoided court-martial by confronting the troops in their unit. That moment cemented Bob and Jack together.

52-years later they share how they've remained a couple by leaving wives and children, moving to a small town in the Pacific Northwest and starting a radio station. Today they battle the stigmas of being gay, a successful gay couple, and an active gay couple in their eighties. Bob & Jack's 52-Year Adventure is the true self-told story about the kind of lifelong love we all hope for and the equal rights many of us will need if our relationships are to survive

Sunday, August 13, 2006; 12:30 p.m.

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.

Sunday, August 13, 2006; 5:00 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

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.

Friday, August 11, 2006; 7:15 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

OUTTAKE

Charlotte Robinson, Producer/Director

10 min. USA 2006

OUTTAKE was produced to defuse the gay marriage controversy. This short fast-moving documentary provides crucial information and insight about the historic days leading up to May 17, 2004 when Gay Marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

Arline Isaacson, Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus guides the viewing audience through this controversial civil rights issue with intelligence, candor, common sense and humor.

LGBT SHORTS

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 12:30 p.m., Castle Cinema

BICYCLE MESSENGERS

Joshua Frankel, Director

5 min. USA 2005

An animated bicycle messenger speeds through New York City.

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 9:15 p.m., Columbus Cinematheque

DAVY AND STU

Soman Chainari, Director, Columbia University

16 min USA 2005

Based on Anton Dudley's award-winning play. Two boys meet in the darkness as part of a nightly ritual.

Sunday, August 13, 2006; 5:00 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

DIE RASUR

Tuncay Kulaoglu, Director

8 min. Germany 2006

United States Premiere

A man spends an average of 150 days during his life fighting against his beard. In only 18 months, he shaves an area as big as a football pitch. Many times as an obligatory chore and rarely without shedding blood. Is shaving a dry and dull affair, even if one has a wet shave? One could think so, if there were not any barber shops around. Whoever was lucky enough to experience the art of shaving at least once in his life will do everything to find his favorite barber. Shaving is a very physical experience where tension and relaxation, pleasure and pain lie very close together. Sometimes, the air is even erotically charged...

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 6:45 p.m., Castle Cinema

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Liz Lachman, Director

20 min. USA 2005

Cast • Anne Ramsay, Dana Delany & Elizabeth Keener

New England Premiere

Tenny Bell (Elizabeth Keener), a successful but superficial cartoonist, doesn't do the basic dating homework of looking before she leaps. Her sister Marla (Dana Delany) and Marla's husband Russ (Ian Gomez), try to point Tenny in the right direction, but Tenny continues to only date the beautiful women, with disastrous results.

When Tenny meets the perfect woman at an out of town bridal shower, an internet and phone-sex dating storm brews as she tries to do it right. But there are a few surprises in store for Tenny and she's about to learn how to truly 'get to know' someone.

Sunday, August 13, 2006; 12:30 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

HAPPY HAMPTON'S HOLIDAY CAMP FOR TROUBLED COUPLES

Greg Pak, Director

6 .5 min. USA 2005

Cast • Vin Knight, Kim Ima, with Peter Donato, Tanya Taverreau, and the voice of Anthony Marchegiano

A man gets the hiccups at a holiday camp for troubled couples. But what secret is he *really* hiding?

Original song, "Wherever It Might Lead," by Nancy Atlas

Friday, August 11, 2006; 9:00 p.m., Castle Cinema

HITCHCOCKED

David M. Young, Director

8 min. USA, 2005

A taut taste of suspense – a sexual encounter takes a strange and dangerous twist.

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 6:45 p.m., Castle Cinema

INCLINATIONS

Jen Simmons, Shelley Barry, Directors, Temple University

13 min. USA 2005

An aspiring writer struggles to find the perfect plot for an erotic short story, while unexpected characters encourage her to try some exotic explorations of her own.

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 6:45 p.m., Castle Cinema

IN MEMORY OF ME

Samantha Lavin, Director

22 min. USA 2005

When a young woman returns to her hometown, memories of an affair she had with another woman resurface and her present starts to unravel.

Friday, August 11, 2006; 9:15 p.m., Columbus Cinematheque

IS ONE OF YOU EDDIE?

Michael Simon, Director

8 min. USA 2006

East Coast Premiere

Stereotypes are challenged as four attractive gay men unfairly judge their neighbor, Eddie, who doesn't fit the 'West Hollywood' mold. When Eddie is visited by a drop dead gorgeous hunk for a massage appointment their curiosity is piqued. - Mouth watering production design and hysterical performances highlight this comedy for all audiences.

Wednesday, August 9, 2006; 12:15 p.m., Columbus Cinematheque

MISSING PAGES

Jerome Olivier, Director

24 min. Japan 2005,

An inventor gets more than he bargained for when his new invention creates a world of time travel, aliens and a missing child. Missing Pages, is a Sci-fi

adventure, employing "Fotomation", a visually original type of animation using a digital still camera.

Friday, August 11, 2006; 7:15 p.m., Castle Cinema

MORRIS

Nathan Fielder, Ryan W. Smith & Adam Locke-Norton, Directors

6 min. Canada 2006

East Coast Premiere

Morris stands at the front of the living room. Across from him, his sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren are assembled. Morris shifts nervously in his taupe cardigan. Can he tell them?

At eighty-seven years of age, Morris decides it's finally time to come out of the closet.

Thursday, August 10, 2006; 7:15 p.m., Castle Cinema #2

SHE KILLS HE

Dave Rodriguez, Director

20 min. USA 2005

Meet an atypical street kid and his unexpected love interest. Shot on the gritty streets of Miami.

Saturday, August 12, 2006; 6:45 p.m., Castle Cinema

TWENTY DOLLAR DRINKS

David Brind, Director

14 min. USA 2006

Fame comes with a price; insecurities, jealousies and envy take a front seat when a drink between two women (Sandra Bernhard and Cady Huffman) turns into a calculated game.

Wednesday, August 9, 2006; 12:15 p.m., Columbus Cinematheque

WATER

Shuichi Yoshida, Director

25 min. Japan 2006

United States Premiere

A Prize winning Japanese novelist, in his first adaptation from one of his own novels, 'Water' brilliantly and delicately portrays the lives of two teenagers in Director's own hometown of Nagasaki, Japan.