



For details, art or photos about FLICKERS media releases, contact Tsutomu Brelsford, tbrelsfo@film-festival.org • 401/861.4445

2012 RIIFF's OPENING NIGHT TO BE HELD AT THE VETS

Screening of top shorts and celebration to kick off-16th Annual RIIFF

(Providence, R.I. • July 29, 2012) - Join **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** for its 16th-annual Opening Night screening and celebration, happening **Tuesday, August 7th** at **The VETS (formerly the VMA Arts & Cultural Center), 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence, R.I.**, beginning at 7 p.m.

RIIFF's opening night screening is a popular annual event and the official kick-off for this year's amazing Festival. The Opening Night is a showcase for the very best of our short film submissions and features programming that will inspire, challenge and illustrate the talent of the participants who define New England's largest and only Academy Award-qualifying film festival.

In 2011, five of the films that premiered at RIIFF went on to receive Academy Award nominations, and two came away as winners: (*"The Shore"* directed by Terry George and *"The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore"* directed by William Joyce.)

The magic of year's RIIFF begins at 7:00 p.m. for an evening co-hosted by RIIFF Advisory Board President, Board President, **Michael Drywa, Esq.** and **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director of the RI Film & Television Office who will be joined by **Providence Mayor Angel Taveras**. The RIIFF SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AWARD will be presented to **Carla Maria Verdino-Süllwold** (Maine) for her screenplay *"Raising Rufus: A Maine Love Story."* The ROGER WILLIAMS INDEPENDENT VOICE AWARD will then be presented to Trinity Repertory Actor, **Barbara Meek** by **Maia Farish**, wife of Roger Williams University President, Donald Farish. The award is presented semi-annually to an outstanding artist whose vision promotes tolerance, compassion and understanding.

Then the Festival kicks off in earnest with seven exceptional cinematic gems:

- **ASAD** directed by Bryan Buckley | South Africa
- **Trotteur** directed by Arnaud Brisebois & Francic Leclerc | Canada
- **Pesaran-e-Buzkashi (*Buzkashi Boys*)** directed by Sam French | Afghanistan
- **Friend Request Pending** directed by Chris Foggin (starring Judi Dench) | United Kingdom
- **BRÛLEURS (*Burners*)** directed by Farid Bentoumi | France
- **Mannen fra isødet (*The Devil's Ballroom*)** directed by Henrik Martin K. Dahlsbakken | Greenland, Norway
- **J'aurais pu être une pute (*I could've been a hooker*)** directed by Baya Kasmi | France



For details, art or photos about FLICKERS media releases, contact Tsutomu Brelsford, tbrelsfo@film-festival.org • 401/861.4445

Following the film screening, audience members are invited to a celebration gala at The VETS. Featuring mouthwatering desserts provided *Decadent Catering* and beverages from *Providence Coffee Roasters* 12NtM, *Sparkling Beverage*, *Stella Artois* and *Empire Soda*.

Music will be provided by critically acclaimed local artist, *William Quirk*.

Tickets for the screening only are **\$15**. Tickets for the combined Opening Night Screening and Celebration Gala are **\$30**.

Purchase tickets online

at: http://riff.festivalgenius.com/2012/films/openingnightscreeningcelebration_riff2012_riff2012 to avoid long wait times.

Tickets are also available for purchase at the door for the screening. The Box Office will open at 5:00 p.m. before the show.

For more information on RIIFF's complete schedule of films and events, and to download a complete festival program guide, go to this URL: www.RIFilmFest.org

ABOUT THE FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) 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-12 festivals in the United States, RIIFF is one of 75 festivals worldwide that is a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards through its partnership with the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.

For more information about this year's FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival, running Aug. 7 to 12 at The VETS and other locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, please visit our website at www.RIFilmFest.org or call us at 401.861.4445.

###