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Photos Available Upon Request:

RIIFF GOES TO THE OSCARS®

Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival hosts retrospective screenings of Oscar shorts at venues throughout the state of Rhode Island.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (February 7, 2015) – 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 seven Academy wins.

Every year, the RIIFF kicks off its annual August Festival with an opening night program that salutes the art of the short film. Every year, several of these films have ended up receiving Oscar® nominations. In 2014, four Festival films were nominated with one win. And in 2015, five films have been nominated with the winner(s) to be announced on Sunday, February 22nd at the 87th Annual Academy Awards.

In celebration of this year's Oscar® nominations, the **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, in collaboration with the **RI Film & Television Office**, will be presenting a special collection of Oscar® nominated short films that have screened at RIIFF over the past 19 years. This program, called "**From the Vaults: RIIFF Goes to the Oscars®**," will take place from Monday, February 18th through Saturday, February 21st

Going into its vaults, RIIFF will be presenting a retrospective of some of these amazing Oscar® nominees, winners and even films that made the Academy short-list. The program will be hosted at **The Rogers Free Library** and **Roger Williams University**, both in Bristol, the **Kingston Free Library** in Kingston, plus the **Rochambeau** and the **Providence Public Libraries** in Providence. All screenings will be free to the general public.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to highlight some of our best films from years past as we approach Oscar Night®. Thanks to the RI Film and Television Office for making it possible to share some of the world's greatest short films with our local Rhode Island community" said **Michael Drywa, Esq.**, RIIFF Advisory Board President.

"FROM THE VAULTS: RIIFF GOES TO THE OSCARS®" SCHEDULE:

Date: **Wednesday, February 18th**

Location: **Rogers Free Library**, 525 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: **Thursday, February 19th**

Location: **Roger Williams University**, Global Heritage Hall, Room 01, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI

Hosted by the RWU Film Production Club

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Date: **Thursday, February 19th**

Location: **Rochambeau Library**, 708 Hope Street, Providence, RI

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: **Saturday, February 21st**

Location: Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI

Time: 1:30 PM

Date: **Saturday, February 21st**

Location: Kingston Free Library, 2605 Kinston Road, Kingston, RI

Time: 3:00 PM

Cost: These are all Free Events

FILMS SCHEDULED TO BE SCREENED:

The Dam Keeper | Directed by Robert Kondo and Daisuke 'Dice' Tsutsumi | 26 min. USA, (Animation)

A short film that tells the tale of a young pig with an important job, and a new classmate who changes everything. The short film blends traditional hand-drawn animation with digital painting techniques to bring Kondo and Tsutsumi's celebrated painting style to life. In a desolate future, one small town has survived because of a large windmill dam that acts as a fan to keep out poisonous clouds. The dam's operator, Pig, works tirelessly to keep the sails spinning and protect the town, despite bullying from classmates and an indifferent public. When a new student, Fox, joins Pig's class, everything begins to change.

The Bigger Picture | Directed by Daisy Jacobs | 8 min. United Kingdom (Animation)

Tensions arise between two brothers as their elderly mother requires more care.

The Phone Call | Directed by Matt Kirby | 21 min. United Kingdom

"The Phone Call" follows Heather, (played by Golden Globe winner Sally Hawkins), a shy lady who works at a helpline call centre. When Heather receives a phone call from a mystery man (played by Oscar winner Jim Broadbent) she has no idea that the encounter will change her life forever

My Father's Truck | Directed by Mauricio Osaki | 15 min. Vietnam

"My Father's Truck" is a part coming-of-age, part road film about 10-year-old Mai Vy as she skips school one day to help her father with his passenger truck for hire.

Baghdad Messi | Directed by Sahim Omar Kalifalraq | 19 min. United Arab Emirates/Belgium

Little Hamoudi age 10 is totally obsessed with football. Just as the rest of the world, he and his friends are eagerly looking forward to the Champions League finale FC Barcelona-Manchester United. The long awaited clash between Messi and Ronaldo. But then Hamoudi's television breaks down...

This unique selection of short films will be featured in conjunction with Flickers' annual **Red Carpet Experience: Providence** event that takes place at The Vets, One Avenue of the Arts, Providence, RI, Sunday, February 22nd. This year's focus is a celebration of the Centenary of legendary actor, Anthony Quinn.

Red Carpet Experience: Providence guests may feel like stars themselves from a red carpet entrance photographed by paparazzi, interviews by reporters from ABC6, a welcoming reception celebrating this year's Producer Circle Awards, amazing hors d'oeuvres and beverages, live music, silent auction, a gourmet dinner, unforgettable desserts and of course a screening of the 87th Annual Academy Awards.

The Honorary Chairs for the event are **Steven Feinberg**, Executive Director/RI Film & Television Office and **Michael Drywa, Esq.** RIFF Advisory Board President. Hosts for the evening are **Doreen Scanlon** and **Mark Curtis** of ABC6.

Benefiting Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival, the **Red Carpet Experience: Providence** celebration will be held at **The Vets**, One Avenue of the Arts with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale online at www.RIFilmFest.org or by calling 401.861.4445. The cost per ticket is \$100.

ABOUT THE 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 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 Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at www.RIFilmFest.org or call **401.861.4445**.

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