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FLICKERS' VORTEX SCI-FI, FANTASY & HORROR FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR 16TH SEASON

80 films from 15 countries vied for adjudicated genre awards

PROVIDENCE, RI (October 25, 2015) – A phantasmagoric symphony of international genre films were given their due with the wrap of the **16th Annual Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Film Festival** through adjudicated awards. The Festival celebrated and showcased imagination and creativity in filmmaking and will include a bevy of World and U.S. Premieres. In all, 80 films were selected from over 5,000 submissions, representing 15 countries. Many of the filmmakers were in attendance, allowing audience members to meet, ask questions, and network with the next generation of genre filmmakers.

The 2015 festival screened 80 titles, featured three forums and included screenings in Providence at the Bell Street Chapel Theatre, the PAFF Theatre at the University of Rhode Island Providence Feinstein Campus, and the Providence Public Library, the Rhode Island Historical Society, along with satellite programming at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, the Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket, the Narragansett Theater at the Pier, the Jamestown Art Center, the Tiverton Public Library and Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI.

"This year's event allowed us to reach new goals and set benchmarks for next year," said **Shawn Quirk**, Program Director of the Rhode Island International Film Festival, which produces the Vortex sidebar. "We made a concerted effort this year to expand our programming to include a dynamic mix of the Horror, Fantasy, and Sci-Fi genres.

"These films represent the vanguard of genre filmmaking from across the globe, and showcase a rising generation of filmmakers, who are redefining genre films for the next generation of cinephiles. These filmmakers are leaders of tomorrow's entertainment industry, and it's our mission to empower them and help them move forward in their respective careers through showcasing their work."

"From expanded free screenings of youth-friendly sci-fi/fantasy programs, ongoing educational outreach with area colleges and universities, to a master class on narrative documentary filmmaking, to a Forum on film production, this year's Vortex Film Festival empowered genre filmmaking at large and inspired our future planning," noted Quirk. "We are proud to see that this sidebar to RIFF has become an important cultural event for the State."

"*The Singularity Of Imagination: A Conversation with...*" featured documentary filmmaker, **Reshad Kulenovic**, a writer/director based in Boston, New York, and Sarajevo. His short film *Snovi* played 20 international film festivals and was nominated for a 2011 Student Academy Award. *Snovi* was produced by the Centre Andre Malraux Sarajevo, which also produced Jean-Luc

Godard's *Notre Musique*. Kulenovic became one of the first artists to be funded by the Heinrich Boll Foundation. His documentary *100 Million Dollar House*, set in the West Bank, premiered at the 2015 Rhode Island International Film Festival and was acquired for distribution by Al Jazeera. He graduated with an MFA in Film Production from Boston University. During an in-depth conversation, Kulenovic spoke about his professional journey and shared insights into what it takes to succeed in the film industry and the fine line between truth and fiction.

"*Behind The Camera Lens: On the Nature of Genre Filmmaking*," showcased **Steven Feinberg** ("Fortress," "Peter York," "Pell Grants: A Passion for Education"), Executive Director of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office, the man behind the state's high profile within the industry, and filmmaking professionals who have successfully made careers within the industry: Panelists were **Christina Raia** ("Summit"), **Tommy Denucci** ("Almost Mercy") and **Shawn Quirk**, RIIFF's Program Director.

WINNERS OF TOP PRIZES FOR THE 2015 FESTIVAL:

BEST SCI-FI/FANTASY FILM:

• **BEST SHORT FILM**

GRAND PRIZE:

Tarim le brave contre des Milles et Un Effects (Tarim the Brave Versus 1001 Special Effects) | Guillaume Rieu, Director | 19 min. France, 2015.

FIRST PRIZE:

Movies in Space | Chris W. Smith, Director | 15 min. USA, 2015.

• **BEST FEATURE FILM**

GRAND PRIZE:

Jackrabbit | Carleton Ranney, Director | 100 min. USA, 2015.

FIRST PRIZE:

The Answer | Iqbal Ahmed, Director | 83 min. USA, 2014

BEST HORROR FILM:

• **BEST SHORT FILM**

Larry Gone Demon | Matt Lawrence, Director | 14 min. USA, 2014.

• **BEST FEATURE FILM**

Lake Nowhere | Christopher Phelps & Maxim Von Scoy, Directors | 51 min. USA, 2014

BEST ANIMATED SHORT FILM:

GRAND PRIZE:

Dissonance | Till Nowak, Director | 15 min. Germany, 2015.

FIRST PRIZE:

Day 40 | Sol Friedman, Director, | 6 min. Canada, 2014.

BEST DIRECTOR:

Summit | Christina Raia, Director | 80 min. USA, 2014.

BEST EDITING:

Intersection | Brendan Beachmen, Editor | 19 min. USA, 2015.

BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM:

Chulyen | Agnès Patron, Director | 20 min. France, 2015.

PROVIDENCE UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL AWARD FOR BEST FILM:

GRAND PRIZE:

Lost In Bloom | Michael Messina, Director | 27 min. USA (Local), 2015.

FIRST PRIZE:

Selene Hollow | Mathew Provost, Director | 44 min. USA (Local), 2015.

DIRECTORIAL DISCOVERY AWARD:

They're Closing In | Jarret Blinkhorn, Director | 6 min. USA (Local), 2015.

Plans are already in development for an expansion of the Festival and a greater high school, college and educational presence in 2016.

The Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy, & Horror Film Festival is sponsored by *The Rhode Island Film & Television Office, Amtrak, RISCA, Cox on Demand, Diabolique Magazine, Eurochannel, The Harrington School of Communications and Media at the University of Rhode Island, The URI College of Arts & Sciences, The Film Media Program, and the URI Feinstein College of Continuing Education, Roger Williams University and the RWU Film Production Collaborative.*

The next edition of the **Flickers' Vortex Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror Festival** will take place **October 17-23, 2016**.

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, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for both the Short Narrative and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **August 9-14 2016** 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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