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FLICKERS ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS 2016 SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

The Rhode Island International Screenplay Competition received 447 submissions from throughout the United States and across the globe

(PROVIDENCE, RI) • **Tannaz Hazemi** from Brooklyn, NY is the **Best Screenplay Grand Prize Winner** for this year's **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) Screenplay Competition**. Tannaz's winning screenplay is entitled "**Dean the Drummer**." George T. Marshall, RIIFF Executive Director/CEO, made the announcement of the 2016 awards.

The "**Dean the Drummer**" storyline: Raised an orphan after her Mother died during childbirth, teenager Mia is now pregnant herself and struggles to make enough money for a respectable delivery. Despite her boyfriend's disapproving Mother, her abusive Uncle, and having to work illegally underaged.

"Hazemi's script tackles the real life economic struggles that many young parents face on a daily basis. It's a defining example of contemporary American Realism, a story of perseverance that speaks to the greater social consciousness of today," said Shawn Quirk, RIIFF Program Director.

"What an amazing year for storytelling and our screenplay competition. This year's entries were compelling and engaging, and were scored on criteria that included character, dialogue, setting, plot and technique," added Quirk. "We reviewed the largest entry base in competition's history – 447 submissions – making for difficult decision-making on the part of our international group of judges."

"After extensive and careful deliberation, prize winners were chosen in six distinct categories: Best Screenplay, Best International, Vortex Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Horror, Best LGBTQ, Spotlight on New England and Best Short Screenplay," Quirk noted.

"Our sincere congratulations to this year's winners," stated George T. Marshall. "This competition has introduced us to some of the world's brightest and most talented writers in the craft."

THE 2016 PRIZE WINNERS:

BEST SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Dean The Drummer | Tannaz Hazemi, Author, Brooklyn, NY

FIRST PLACE:

Jimmy | Kent Moran, Author, Los Angeles, CA

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INTERNATIONAL SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Where Emperors Go To Die | Evan Kimball, Author, Beijing, China

FIRST PRIZE:

The Lady of Sing Sing | Candida Brady, Author, Walington Oxfordshire, United Kingdom

VORTEX HORROR/SCI-FI SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Monsterland | Michael Phillip Cash, Author, Bethpage, NY

FIRST PRIZE:

Miss Diagnosis | Derek Dubois, Author, Woonsocket, RI

BARREN BRANCHES LGBTQ SCREENPLAY

GRAND PRIZE:

Sideways Down the Sky | Barry Brennessel, Author, Silver Springs, MD

FIRST PRIZE:

Venice Is For Lovers | Storm Garner, Author, New York, NY

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ENGLAND

GRAND PRIZE:

The Extraordinary World of Cecily Blinkstop | Jennifer Potts, Author, Fitchburg, MA

FIRST PRIZE:

Return to Me | Walter Quinn, Author, Hartford, CT

BEST TELEVISION PILOT SCRIPT

GRAND PRIZE :

Swagger | Kendra Cunningham, Author, New York, NY

FIRST PRIZE:

The Mother Ducks | Mike Carrier, Author, Los Angeles, CA

BEST SHORT SCRIPT

GRAND PRIZE:

Zenith | Ellie Foubi, Author, New York, NY

FIRST PRIZE:

Matt and the Epic Microwave Odyssey | Michelle Sarkany, Author, Fresh Meadows, NY

Prizes awarded to the winners of the screenplay competition (which vary with the specific screenplay category) include: 1 Script Listing and 1 Magazine Listing from **InkTip**; Final Draft software featuring **Final Draft Screenwriting Suites**; and Passes to the **2017 Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** and the **ScriptBiz™ Screenwriter's Workshop**.

The Best Screenplay Grand Prize winner will be brought to Providence to attend the **2017 ScriptBiz program**, where their screenplay will be a central focus of the program, plus receive a private script consultation and an official award on RIFF's Opening Night Celebration on the stage of the 3,300 seat Providence Performing Arts Center. Lodging and transportation will also be provided.

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 the Live Action, Animation and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and the Canadian Screen Awards. 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 8-13 2017** at The **Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC)** and **The Vets**, please visit our website at **www.RIFilmFest.org** or call **401.861.4445**.

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