



FLICKERS: Rhode Island August 4 - 9 International Film Festival

By Shawn Quirk & Tsutomu Brelsford

On August 4, 2015, Flickers kicks-off its 19th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) in Providence, RI. Out of the seven thousand plus film festivals worldwide, RIIFF is widely recognized as a credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. 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 ten Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award and the Short Documentary Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

There are nineteen film festivals worldwide which share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. RIIFF is truly a place where the stars align. Aside from film screenings, the Flickers team has organized a number of events to encourage filmmakers and festival attendees to widen their knowledge of filmmaking as well as explore the incredible city of Providence that RIIFF is proud to call home.

The Rhode Island International Film Festival will run August 4 - 9 in Providence, Newport, Bristol, East Greenwich, Woonsocket and Jamestown, Rhode Island. Flickers, Newport Film Society and Arts Collaborative is the creator of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

The festival welcomes stellar filmmaking talents from all over the world to beautiful Providence, RI, one of America's oldest and most beloved cities. For nearly two decades, RIIFF has embraced its visitors with the sort of warm-hearted, independent spirit that fosters long-lasting friendships, sparks exciting creative

projects, and inspires guests to return again and again. It is little wonder that Chris Gore's "Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide" praised RIIFF as "the kind of intimate festival experience that will change your life."

Last year, RIIFF presented over two hundred films from throughout the world and welcomed 267 filmmakers, producers, cast, and crew. A record, ninety-four World/United States/North American Premieres were presented during the main Festival. For its 19th season, Flickers is gearing up for an even more expansive program, maintaining its reputation as the largest and most visible film festival in New England. A record 260 feature length, documentary and short films - from sixty-six countries including India, Italy, Palestine, Iran, Bosnia, Argentina, Norway, the United Kingdom and South Africa, and thirty-four states in the US - will be screened during the six-day Festival period at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island. Films have been selected from an entry base of 5,600 submissions.

With a slew of unique offerings—including the RI Film Forum, Scriptbiz, the Future Filmmaking Symposium, Providence Backlot Walking Tour, Acting for Camera Workshop, the Short Film Retrospective: Journey's in Filmmaking, Indie Film Budgeting Workshop, the RI Film and Television Office's Filmmaker Lounge, the Women Behind the Camera Panel and film showcase, a special salute to the Centenary of legendary actor, Anthony Quinn, family and kids film programming under the KidsEye umbrella, the LGBTQ Film Festival, The Providence Jewish Film Festival and The Film Youth Jury, and an expanded closing night block party, RIIFF ensures each of its participating visitors is treated in an enriching and inspiring festival experience.

left to right

With unprecedented access, *MONTY PYTHON: THE MEANING OF LIFE* is an amazing portrait revealing the humor, chaos, and passion that went into bringing the Flying Circus to the stage. It offers a unique insight into the inner workings of five diverse talents pulling together after a 34-year hiatus to recreate their unique brand of comedy for a legion of fans and celebrity admirers.

Eve Hedderwick-Turner, Matilda Sturridge and Bonnie Wright (Ginny Weasley in *HARRY POTTER*) in *HOW (NOT) TO ROB A TRAIN* having its US Premiere at this year's RIIFF.

Workshops and Special Programming:

A number of events that RIIFF will hold during the week are targeted toward helping novice and professional filmmakers improve and refine their skills. One of the most popular events is the annual Rhode Island Film Forum to be held on Thursday, August 6th, at the Biltmore Hotel Ballroom in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office and the University of Rhode Island's Harrington School of Communication and Media.

The Scriptbiz™ Screenplay Pitch Seminar returns to RIIFF this year showcasing this year's Grand Prize Screenplay Competition winner *DISPOSSESSED* written by George Billiard, from Eldred, New York. The Scriptbiz workshop is a great place for aspiring screenwriters looking to make an impact with their work by receiving constructive critique and advice from people with experience in the field. The director of the program is a former Scriptbiz winner, William Torgerson, Assistant Professor, Institute for Writing Studies, St. John's University, Queens, NY. Panelists will include writer Chris Sparling, educator Andrew Lund, and actor/director, Tom



clockwise from top left,
Attendees at the Rhode Island Film Forum discovering one of acting icon Anthony Quinn's Academy Awards®

Four young men take an unprecedented journey in UNBRANDED with adopted mustangs from the Mexican to the Canadian border through the backcountry of deserts and mountains.



The life and times of Danny Fields who played a pivotal role in rock 'n' roll of the late 20th century, takes center stage in DANNY SAYS, a documentary that charts his working for the Doors, Cream, Lou Reed, Nico, Judy Collins; managing groundbreaking artists like the Stooges, MC5, and the Ramones.

Theatre screen at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Kicks Off its 19th Season

with over 250 films

below,
The popular annual Closing Night Party for the Rhode Island International Film Festival takes place at the DARK LADY on Snow Street running until 3:00 a.m. in downtown Providence. Last year's Party drew over 1,500 attendees.

DeNucci (see IMAGINE Cover Story September 2014).

The Providence Backlot Walking Tour with the Rhode Island Historical Society exposes attendees to the beauty and potential of the Ocean State's capital city as a significant location for film production.

Last year, Flickers was one of ten festivals awarded a grant from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for special programming. The grant will support Flickers' Short Film Retrospective: Journey's in Filmmaking, a look back at films that have played at the Festival over the past eighteen years and have gone on to be nominated or win an Academy Award®. The grant allows for screenings of Oscar®-nominated and winning shorts previously screened or discovered at RIFF, post Q&A discussions and a special master class featuring a panel of award-winning filmmakers and scholars.

Up-and-coming filmmakers in attendance to the 2015 festival would have the opportunity to learn from this panel in a master class setting. This panel would focus on the development and evolution of the short films, the process in which filmmakers take to make it in the industry and the growing importance of the short film genre.

Interactive networking events will be held nightly during the span of the six-day festival including the popular Block Party at the Dark Lady in downtown Providence which last year drew over 1,500 participants. This year the

Festival will again partner with other Providence Arts organization such as AS220's "FOO FEST", making the week of the Festival an unparalleled Celebration of Film, Arts and Culture.

RIFF encourages all entrants and accepted filmmakers to attend the Festival, and offers all-access passes, reduced rates on area hotels, inns and B&B's, restaurant and local business discounts. There is even an option for filmmakers to stay free of charge with community hosts. The Festival awards over \$50,000 USD worth in prizes to winning filmmakers, including software, scholarships, consulting, and production services.

RIFF offers a variety of prestigious awards to some of the most talented artists in the business. The festival's Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Oscar-nominated actors Seymour Cassel and Cicely Tyson, Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine, and acclaimed legends of stage and screen, Theo Bikel, Ken Howard, Paul Sorvino, Blake Edwards and Patricia Neal. The festival's Crystal Image and Crystal Image Awards have been awarded to talents including Blythe Danner, Carol Patton, Federico Castelluccio, Rosa von Praunheim, Zach Braff, Jonathan Katz, Rupert Friend, Ian Gruffudd, Michael Showalter, C.J. Adams, Robert Capron, composer Klaus Badelt, and children's book author Sandra Boynton.

The Rhode Island International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the



past two decades, the has screened 3,896 independent films and videos out of 42,935 entries, presented 905 World/North American premieres, featured over 700 entries that were locally produced, and hosted 3,358 filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over 360,000 film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival, its film presentations and programming.

Tickets are \$10 general admission to all screenings, except \$15 for the opening night Gala; Senior, group and student discounts available with advance purchase.

More information on the Festival, including advance ticket sales for screenings or special events, plus student, group, and senior discounts, can be found at www.RIFilmFest.org. You can also write to RIFF, 83 Park Street, Suite 5, Providence, RI 02903; call 401 861-4445; email: info@film-festival.org.