



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Short Short Story Film Festival Comes to Providence Thanksgiving Weekend

PROVIDENCE, RI – MergingArts Productions will present the third annual *Short Short Story Film Festival* on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at The Cable Car Cinema and Café at 204 South Main Street in Providence, RI. The festival will feature four screenings throughout the day along with an evening reception. The event is open to the public.

The festival highlights films of five minutes or less in length, all of which tell a story. Toni Pennacchia, Director of MergingArts Productions, elaborates on the festival's name. "We focus both on length and story. Many festivals show 'shorts' of twenty minutes or longer, whereas none of ours are more than five. At the same time, they tell genuine stories rather than being just concept pieces."

The festival organizers travel the event to arts-friendly communities in the Northeast. After playing to a sold-out Perishable Theatre at its Providence debut in November 2007, the fest had enthusiastic receptions in New Hampshire and Vermont the following year. For 2009, the festival screens in New York City before returning home to Providence on Thanksgiving weekend. "By Saturday, people have had their fill of turkey and shopping, so this experience is a great way to take break from it all," explains Pennacchia.

She continues, "The new ownership of the Cable Car has really embraced diverse programming, from the Providence French Film Festival or Manhattan Short Film Festival, to special events like Bela Fleck appearing live with his *Throw Down Your Heart* film. We are really excited to bring the festival back home to Providence, and the new Cable Car is a perfect venue for it."

The festival includes a 5:00 pm reception with Phil Goldman and participants in his *Live Bait* short storytelling series, paired with Pennacchia's alter-ego, DJ Madame B, mixing soundscapes with the stories. Pennacchia explains, "We like to have a few little extras with the festival beyond the movies. We've had live music and DJs, but the fact that *Live Bait* specializes in short story performances made them an obvious match. That's a great thing about Providence as 'The Creative Capital' - collaborating with artists in varying disciplines to create something special."

The festival features two sets of nineteen films, the first being what the organizers call the "Heartstrings Program," showing at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm, consisting of films of a sentimental nature – tragic, comic, romantic, or a mix of the three.

The second program is the "Headtrip Program," which screens at 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm, and presents more off-center films, with black comedies and horror well represented, along with many films that don't pigeonhole easily – experimental in flavor, but still having a story.

“Good programming is critical to us,” stresses Pennacchia. “We strive for a flow between films that both makes sense thematically and just feels right, like a good DJ set,” says the long-time radio hostess.

Some films she considers first-half standouts include *Whatever Turns You On*, a bittersweet Irish comedy about a homeless man’s adventures in an electronics retailer, *Garbage Angels*, an animation from Montreal about how some of our trash ends up, and *Invisible Old People*, a Spanish portrayal of an elderly couple as tragic superheroes.

Second-half highlights include *Mama*, a Spanish horror short which rumor has it may be developed into a feature with the help of Guillermo del Toro, *The Veiled Commodity*, a mixed-media animated documentary examining the issue of slavery, and *Two Men*, an Aborigine’s exploration of the *Rashomon* effect.

The festival also offers attendees the chance to win door prizes provided by local businesses such as Acme Video, Nice Slice, and Thai Orchid. Audience members will vote for their favorite films from each of the two programs. Festival tickets go on sale morning the day of show.

MergingArts Productions is an organization dedicated to cultural programming encompassing film, music, visual arts, technology and media, bringing these elements to communities both locally and globally.

The Cable Car Cinema and Café cinema proudly serves the greater Providence area showing unconventional films and special programs with comfy chairs, couches and food service.

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For more information on the festival, contact:

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