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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### RHODE ISLAND FILMMAKER'S NEW MOVIE OPENING NATIONWIDE AUGUST 26, 2016

The Rhode Island Film & TV Office is pleased to announce that Rhode Island resident **Chris Sparling**'s latest film, THE SEA OF TREES, will be released nationwide on August 26, 2016. Starring Matthew McConaughey (INTERSTELLAR, DALLAS BUYERS CLUB); Naomi Watts (BIRDMAN, THE RING) and Ken Watanabe (INCEPTION, THE LAST SAMURAI), the film deals with a suicidal American who befriends a Japanese man lost in a forest near Mt. Fuji as the two search for a way out.

THE SEA OF TREES is produced by Gil Netter (LIFE OF PI, THE BLIND SIDE), Ken Kao (THE NICE GUYS), Chris Sparling, F. Gary Gray, Brian Dobbins and Kevin Halloran and edited by Pietro Scalia (GLADIATOR, THE MARTIAN, J.F.K.). It is directed by former RISD student, and multiple Oscar nominee, Gus Van Sant (GOOD WILL HUNTING, MILK, FINDING FORRESTER).

Writer Chris Sparling (BURIED, MERCY) attended North Providence High School, graduated from Roger Williams University and currently resides in South County.

THE SEA OF TREES was nominated for the Palme D'or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival.

Chris Sparling can be reached directly at [chris@scarredheelproductions.com](mailto:chris@scarredheelproductions.com).

**LINK TO IMDB:** [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3450900/?ref\\_=nm\\_film\\_edt\\_3](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3450900/?ref_=nm_film_edt_3)

**LINK TO TRAILER:** <http://variety.com/2016/film/news/sea-of-trees-trailer-matthew-mcconaughey-gus-van-sant-1201832656/>

The Rhode Island Film & TV Office is a government agency under the umbrella of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

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