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15th PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
UNVEILS 2010 LINE-UP

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FEST OPENS WITH "PRINCESS KA'IULANI" AND CLOSSES WITH "EXAM"

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ELLIOTT GOULD TO RECEIVE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BOCA RATON, FL – The Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF) announced its highly anticipated film line-up for the 15th edition, April 22-26, 2010, featuring 10 World Premieres and 3 U.S. Premieres. "The 15th Anniversary is celebrating not only our on-going commitment to arts and education but to the dedication of today's filmmakers making exceptional films covering diverse genres" says Executive Director Randi Emerman. "We've streamlined the festival, maintained our pledge for funding to the education within the arts which ultimately reflects our Palm Beach community and their dedication."

The 2010 Festival once again will present features, documentaries, shorts and student films from the U.S. and around the world, including Canada, Italy, England, Germany, Israel, Australia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and India, and will play host to filmmakers, producers, and actors to represent and discuss their films.

Opening night kicks off with *Princess Ka'iulani*, directed by **Marc Forby** marking his directorial debut, and starring **Q'orianka Kilcher, Barry Pepper** and **Will Patton**. Set against the dramatic island backdrop of Hawaii and based on the inspiring true story, *Princess Ka'iulani* is a breathtaking romance about an unlikely heroine and her unwavering fight to defend the independence of her people.

Closing Night will feature the passionate and thought-provoking *Exam*, directed by **Stuart Hazeldine** and starring Luke Mably (*28 Days Later*). Eight talented candidates have reached the final stage of selection to join the ranks of a mysterious and powerful corporation. Entering a windowless room, an Invigilator gives them eighty minutes to answer one simple question,

outlining three rules they must obey or be disqualified. However, the candidates turn over their papers only to find they're completely blank. The candidates begin to discover what they can and cannot do and agree to cooperate in order to figure out the question; then they can compete to answer it. Soon enough, they begin to uncover each other's background, prejudices and hidden agendas. Tensions rise as the clock steadily descends towards zero, and each candidate must decide how far they are willing to go to secure the ultimate job.

This year on Friday, April 23, PBIFF will feature **Silver Screen Splash**, the biggest soiree by the beach, honoring the world of films at The Omphoy Ocean Resort. It is at this new spotlight event where PBIFF will proudly present the **Career Achievement Award** to Academy Award-nominated actor **Elliott Gould**. Gould's expansive career includes such memorable films as *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*, *The Long Goodbye*, *California Split*, *M*A*S*H*, *American History X*, *Ocean's Eleven*, *et al* and his extensive television work including his portrayal of Jack Gellar, Ross and Monica's father in the hit NBC series *Friends*.

- PBIFF will present the **Student Showcase of Films** on Friday, April 23, at Palm Beach Gardens Community High School Theatre, celebrating the artistic successes of the nearly 200 Florida high school and college students whose film submissions are competing for scholarships. An additional "Audience Award" will be given to the film that receives the most votes through online voting. Honoring the legacy of Burt Reynolds, the festival will also present an annual scholarship bearing his name. The PBIFF is pleased to spotlight the talent of our youth and considers this investment in future filmmakers to be one of the most important features of the PBIFF. The winning films will be screened on Sunday, April 25, 2:00 p.m. at the Cobb Theatres at Downtown at the Gardens.

-PBIFF presents a special "**Screening Under the Stars**" on Sunday, April 25, at 8 pm at the Ocean Avenue Amphitheatre in Boynton Beach. Gather your friends, bring a blanket, an evening picnic and enjoy the six-time Academy Award-winning musical "Chicago" starring Catherine Zeta-Jones (who also received an Oscar for her performance), Renee Zellweger, Richard Gere and Queen Latifah.

- And, of course, the ever-popular Weekend of Shorts at the Lakeworth Playhouse and the Voices of Local Films at the Cobb Theatres at Downtown at the Gardens.

- PBIFF presents the "**Best of the Fest Weekend**," with encore screenings of the most popular films of the festival on Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2 at the Cobb Theaters in Jupiter.

Screenings of this year's films will be held in Boca Raton, **Delray Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, Jupiter** and **Palm Beach Gardens**.

Passes are on sale now! Take advantage of these incredible packages packed with unbelievable benefits including an official program, discounts, early redemption privileges and more. Platinum passes are available for \$500, which includes unlimited admission to all films, parties

and the Silver Splash Party; Premiere passes are available for \$250, which provides admission to all films, seminars and select parties; Gold passes are available for \$125, which includes unlimited admission to all films with the exception of opening and closing nights, and seminars; and a student pass is \$25 with valid student ID, which allows students to see all films and seminars on a space-available basis. Tickets for Opening and Closing Night events are also on sale: \$50 for the Opening Night film and party (\$40 for party only) and \$30 for the Closing Night film and party (\$20 for part only). Individual screening tickets will go on sale starting Monday, April 5. Tickets for all movies are regular theatre admission (may differ by theatre) and can be purchased at each theater's box office, or in advance at www.pbifilmfest.org or www.brownpaperticket.com.

The Palm Beach International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization supporting film programs in local schools and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of future filmmakers by helping them fulfill their dreams to one-day work in the world of film. For more information, please call (561) 362-0003 or visit the festival web site at www.pbifilmfest.org.

15TH PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL **FILM LINE-UP**

FEATURES

***Bass Ackwards*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Lina Phillips

Cast: Linas Phillips, Davie-Blue, Jim Fletcher, Paul Lazar

A man coming off a disastrous affair with a married woman has a lyrical, strange and comedic cross-country journey in a modified VW bus.

***Beyond The Pole*, UK**

Director: David L. Williams

Cast: Stephen Mangan, Rhys Thomas, Mark Benton, Rosie Cavaliero, Helen Baxendale, Alexander Skarsgard (*True Blood*), Patrick Baladi, Zoe Telford

As the first Carbon Neutral, Vegetarian, Organic expedition EVER to attempt the North Pole, Mark and Brian have high hopes of not only doing their bit for global warming, but also, if all goes well, of getting into the Guinness Book of Records. Unfortunately, not only is this a world first: it's a first for them too. All alone on the ice the boys are left to fend for themselves and hadn't reckoned on the polar bears, the competitive Norwegians or on Mark's rapidly loosening grip on reality. No one said saving the planet would be easy. But does it have to be this hard?

***Case 219*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: James Bruce

Cast: Evan Ross, Leven Rambin, Harold Perrineau, Melora Walters, Taylor Nichols

In the aftermath of a school shooting incident, the story is told in archival video interviews of two students, and best friends of the suicide victim, done by police and psychologists who are left with the task of

reconstructing what was going on in the minds of those involved. The story unfolds in a series of provocative and haunting interviews leaving audiences with the dilemma of who is to blame.

***Don't Let Me Drown*, USA**

Director: Cruz Angeles

Cast: E.J. Bonilla, Ricardo Chavira (*Desperate Housewives*)

In a post-September 11th world overflowing with fear and hate, two Latino teens discover that sometimes the only thing that can keep them from drowning is love.

***Eli & Ben*, Israel – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Ori Ravid

Cast: Lior Ashkenazi, Yuval Shevach, Tashi Grad, Nissan Nativ

Twelve-year-old Eli's world is turned upside down when his father, the City Architect, is charged with taking bribes.

***Exam*, UK – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Stuart Hazeldine

Cast: Luke Mably, Nathalie Cox

Eight talented candidates have reached the final stage of selection to join the ranks of a mysterious and powerful corporation, but how far will they go to secure the ultimate job?

***Follow The Prophet*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Drew Ann Rosenberg

Cast: Tom Noonan, Diane Venora, Robert Chimento, David Conrad, R.D Call, John Diehl, Annie Burgstede

On her 15th birthday Avery Coldon discovers that she is to be given as a secret bride to the new Prophet of a religious cult. She escapes with the help of ex-Army Colonel Jude Marks, and a renegade female sheriff named Red. When they find out that a younger girl will take her place as the secret bride, the three join forces to save her sister and expose the truth that is hidden in the town in Utah.

***Forget Me Not*, UK – WORLD PREMIERE**

Directors: Alexander Holt, Lance Roehrig

Cast: Tobias Menzies, Genevieve O' Reilly, Gemma Jones

Love happens. When you least expect it....Forget Me Not is a moving, modern day love story set against a stunning London backdrop. Taking place over the course of one night and the following day, the story centers on Will Fletcher, a passionate musician, and Eve Fisher, a beautiful, free-spirited woman who works in the local bar. Whilst struggling to cope with a tragic secret, Will saves Eve from a drunken customer at closing time and their paths become inextricably linked.

***Immigration Tango*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: David Burton Morris

Cast: Carlos Leon, Ashley Wolfe, McCaleb Burnett, Elika Portnoy, Steve DuMouchel, Beth Glover

An American couple and a foreign couple test the limits of friendship and love when they switch partners and get married for green cards. What happens when friendship and trust and love and sex get all mixed up in a four-way dance around the immigration laws?

***Jozi*, South Africa – U.S. PREMIERE**

Director: Robin Acutt

Cast: Carl Beukes, Lionel Newton, Nick Boraine, Moshidi Motshegwa, Jena Dover, Lindiwe Matshikiza
 James is a successful comedy writer. There is only one small problem, he lives in Johannesburg and has completely and utterly lost his sense of humor. Crime, politics, pessimism and feather duster salesmen have invaded every cell of his body causing him to lose the very spark of humor which enables him to earn his living. He has other problems too – his girlfriend has left him for the most boring man in the world; his entire family has emigrated; he has thrown his producer’s computer out the window and developed a serious drug problem. In the maddest of madcap journeys, James must travel through the highways and byways of South Africa from Daspoort Rehab back to Johannesburg to try and find his elusive sense of humor as well as his ability to love and laugh again.

***Lovely, Still*, USA**

Director: Nik Fackler

Cast: Martin Landau, Ellen Burstyn, Elizabeth Banks, Adam Scott

A work of complete originality, *LOVELY, STILL* takes romance down the rabbit hole - leaving both its characters and audience to wonder about the true nature of love. A creature of habit, Robert Malone (Landau) wakes up at the same time every day, acting out a routine set in stone. One night he returns to his empty house, only to find a lovely stranger (Burstyn) standing in his living room. Her name is Mary, and she quickly calms Robert by explaining that she has just moved in across the street and saw his open door. Their encounter ends with Mary unexpectedly asking Robert out for a date. Within days, his orderly world is sent spinning, as the two find themselves acting out rituals and routines as if they’ve known each other all their lives. On Christmas Eve, Robert attends a party at Mary’s relatives, and immediately realizes just how little he knows about his new love. Suspicions grow, and before long, he is straining against the fragile walls of memory that hold his very reality together.

***Marathon*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Biju Viswanath

Cast: Bristol Pomeroy, Alec Dana, Beth Campbell, Donna Del Bueno, Beverly Robinson

Based on a true story, *Marathon* explores the relationship between Richard Harteis and William Meredith, former U.S. Poet Laureate and winner of virtually every major American award for poetry including the 1988 Pulitzer Prize. In the 17th year of their friendship, William sustains a debilitating stroke. Richard stands by his partner, fighting for the right to care for him, despite the inevitable restrictions on his own life, and against the wishes of William’s family. Though the path they have chosen is not an easy one, their love and compassion see them through days of illness, therapy, and healing. The strength to overcome disability with dignity becomes a lesson in physical and spiritual endurance, hard won knowledge indeed. In this moving account, we see how two fellow runners have joined the course, and just how far our dreams can take us before we cross the finish line.

***Meant To Be*, UK – WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Paul Breuls

Cast: Kelly Reilly, Julian Rhind-Tutt, Santiago Cabrera, Mía Maestro, Kris Marshall

MEANT TO BE is the feel-good comedy sent straight from Heaven about an affable guardian angel called WILL (Julian Rhind-Tutt) and his very human quest for true love. When “The Boss” sends news that Will is no longer needed by Amanda (Kelly Reilly), a beautiful young architect he has protected since her childhood, he has a strange feeling, a feeling that he can’t let her go, a feeling we mortals call love. Convinced that to be with Amanda is his destiny, Will enlists the help of his best friend and fellow angel, Archie (Kris Marshall), and embarks on a rebellious mission. Forfeiting his wings to become human, Will has seven days to distract Amanda’s attention from a charming Puerto Rican (Santiago Cabrera), and win

her heart forever. As Will gets a crash course in life on earth, he discovers the trouble with destiny is some things are just Meant To Be.

***Princess Ka'iulani*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Marc Forby

Cast: Q'orianka Kilcher, Barry Pepper, Will Patton

Set against the dramatic island backdrop of Hawaii and based on the inspiring true story, *Princess Ka'iulani* is a breathtaking romance about an unlikely heroine and her unwavering fight to defend the independence of her people.

***Rage*, USA – WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Christopher Witherspoon

Cast: Rick Crawford, Audrey Walker, Christopher Witherspoon, M. L. Maltz, Jo Black Jacob, Richard Topping, Spencer Conway

Dennis Twist, a 30-something man who lives in a nice 'Spielbergian' suburb just outside Portland, Oregon, says goodbye to his beautiful and loving wife, Crystal and heads into town. There he unintentionally provokes the wrath of a mysterious motorcyclist, 'The Biker. The confrontation between the two sets in motion a daylong battle of cat and mouse. Beginning in the form of harmless taunts, things quickly escalate into something more serious...then something unimaginable.

***St. Roz*, Canada – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Gregory Sheppard

Cast: Rachel Wilson

Minnie Barr's weight loss empire is booming in Hamilton. She has but one thorn in her side: her overweight daughter Judy. In a poor church near the steel mills, a corpulent altar girl discovers that she loses a pound whenever she lights a dollar candle before a recently delivered statue. Women swarm the church. One of them is Judy. Within weeks, St. Roz is an international star. Comedians thrive at the church's expense, while the forty billion dollar weight loss industry is in tatters. Disparate forces decide that the statue must disappear. Two gentle forces decide to save her.

***Ten Stories Tall*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: David Garrett

Cast: Ally Sheedy, Josh Hamilton, Tovah Feldshuh, Jennifer Regan, Sherri Saum

As two close-knit families grieve the loss of a beloved matriarch, startling revelations jeopardize the bonds that have kept them together and spur unexpected journeys of self-discovery.

***The Wild Hunt*, Canada – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Alexandre Franchi

Cast: Kyle Gatehouse, Trevor Hayes, Kaniehtiio Horn, Claudia Jurt, Mark Antony Krupa, Ricky Mabe

A medieval reenactment game turns into a Shakespearean tragedy when a non-player crashes the event to win back his girlfriend.

***The Yankles*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: David R. Brooks

Cast: Brian Wimmer, Susanne Sutchy, Don Most, Bart Johnson, Michael Buster, Kenneth Brown, Jesse Bennett

The Yankles is about Charlie Jones, a professional baseball player who was released from the Los Angeles Spirits because of a drinking problem. Upon being paroled from prison after serving time for his third

drunk driving conviction, Charlie endeavors to serve 192 hours mandatory community service by coaching baseball. To Charlie's dismay, however, he is shunned by mainstream society because of the controversy surrounding his early parole and prior convictions. Charlie soon discovers that the only people willing to give him a second chance are a group of Jewish, orthodox, yeshiva students who formed an upstart baseball team called The Yankles.

***Tripping on a Bicycle*, India – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Subbiah Nallamuthu

Cast: James Keenan, Sikandar Bhana

Set in the midst of Goa's sprawling rain drenched landscape, *Tripping on a Bicycle* is a heartwarming story that brings to life the trials and errors of two Buddhist monks struggling to let go.

***Venezzia*, Venezuela – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Haik Gazarian

Cast: Ruddy Rodriguez, Alfonso Herrera, Valentina Rendon, Rafael Romero, Johanna Morales

The opening of a museum of the Venezuelan heroes of WWII brings *Venezzia* down memory lane. Frank meets *Venezzia* and falls in love, yet she is unhappily married to Frank's superior. Their plans for a new life change as Frank is accused of being a spy.

***White Wedding*, South Africa – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Jann Turner

Cast: Kenneth Nikosi, Rapulana Siephemo, Jodie Whittaker, Zandile Msutwana

Elvis and Ayanda are getting married. Elvis just needs to get from Johannesburg to Cape Town for the big event. Take a sweet South African road trip through the hills and valleys of love, friendship and post-apartheid culture clashes.

***Winter's Bone*, USA**

Director: Debra Granik

Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes, Dale Dickey, Lauren Sweetser, Kevin Breznahan

A 17 year-old girl must battle the Ozark wilderness and the local criminal underworld in order to track down her father and save her family's home.

DOCUMENTARIES

***A Good Man*, Australia - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Safina Uberoi

Cast: Chris Rohrlach, Rachel Rohrlach

Chris Rohrlach is an ordinary Australian 'bloke', a farmer from northern New South Wales with an extraordinary story. Fourteen years ago, his pregnant girlfriend Rachel had a massive stroke which left her incurably quadriplegic, with significant neurological impairment. Chris was undeterred - for him, Rachel was still Rachel and he married her shortly after their baby was born. That baby is now a teenage boy and Chris and Rachel have just found out they are having another child! If that was not enough responsibility for Chris, life on the farm is tough and he desperately needs a second income. To the horror of many local townspeople, Chris decides to open a small legal brothel.

***A Surprise in Texas*, USA- FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Peter Rosen

Nobu fever,' erupted immediately after Nobuyuki Tsujii's June '09 victory at the Van Cliburn Piano Competition.' Though classical music is more popular in Japan than in many other countries, there has never been anything like the mania there over a homegrown concert musician before, his agents said. National newspapers reported his Cliburn win on the front page -- the fact that China's Haochen Zhang shared top honors was hardly mentioned. More than 30 TV crews covered Tsujii's airport arrival, according to reports from Japan. Regarding his career, Tsujii expressed the hope that someday his style would be so distinctive that his renditions of Chopin or Beethoven would be recognized as carrying his personal stamp.

***Alemania*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Luis Blanco-Nazoa

Featuring: Rosana Franco, Ivan Rodriguez, Luis Blanco-Nazoa, Fernando Fiore

The adventures of a Miami Spanish language TV crew covering the 2006 FIFA soccer World Cup in Germany.

***Bicycle Dreams*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Stephen Auerbach

They are seekers, madmen and angels hell bent on riding across America on a bicycle in less than ten days. What begins as the adventure of a lifetime is transformed in an instant when one of their comrades is killed in a head-on collision. After the tragic accident, it is no longer their bodies that are at risk - it's their minds. The riders can only pray for deliverance as they pedal toward the Eastern Seaboard. By journey's end, some are saved, others are lost, but all learn that the fuel that takes a soul toward its' own true destiny is DESIRE.

***Burzynski*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Eric Merola

Featuring: Stanislaw Burzynski, M.D., PhD., Julian Whitaker, M.D., David Kessler, M.D., Rep. Joe Barton, Michael Friedman, M.D.

The story of a medical doctor and Ph.D biochemist named Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski who won the largest and possibly most intriguing legal battle against the Food & Drug Administration in American history.

***Conversations with Artists*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Vincent Morelli

This uncensored 80-minute documentary follow six struggling artists -- a painter, an architect, a street magician, an installation artist, an exotic dancer turned performer, and an ex-con ink pen artist -- through a year of living on the edge. The film shows their struggles for survival, their searches for love and meaning and their attempts to live life to the fullest. We follow six through trials, tribulations, triumphs and total failures. Through prison, eviction, financial ruin, creative success, standing ovations and totally unexpected personal transformations.

***Do It Again*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Robert Patton-Spruill

Featuring: Sting, Zooey Deschanel, Robyn Hutchcock, Paul Weller, Geoff Edgers

"Do It Again" is about one man's quest to reunite the '60s rock band, The Kinks. But it's more, as we follow Geoff Edgers, a Boston Globe staff writer, driven by both his desire to create something special before he turns 40 and his longing to reclaim his teenage garage band past. Along this journey he will encounter Sting, Zooey Deschanel, CLive Davis, Peter Buck, Paul Weller, Robyn Hitchcock and, of course, members of The Kinks.

***Filthy Rich*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Mark Crupi

In Palm Beach, Florida, raising money for charity is the number one social activity and during 'the season' someone can have as many as 5 major events per day. The major events are not the charity themselves but the dresses and jewelry worn by the attendees with some of the events, after covering venue, food and various costs, do not raise any money at all. With the poorest community in America right next door in West Palm Beach, you would think that they would naturally benefit from vast amount of charitable dollars raised, but alas, that is not the case. While examining the striking dichotomy between the ultra rich of Palm Beach, and the poor residents of West Palm Beach, filmmaker Mark Vincent asked the biggest names in the Palm Beach social circle to throw a Gala for a cause a little less glamorous than 'The Museum of Fashion History' - A homeless shelter, housing men, women, and dozens of children (ages 3 months and up) in their backyard. *Filthy Rich* is a controversial glimpse at a sub-culture that goes to great lengths to promote itself as the most generous society in the world.

***Garbage Dreams*, Egypt - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Mai Iskander

'GARBAGE DREAMS is a moving story the follows three young men searching for a ways to eke out a living for their families and facing tough choices as they try to do the right thing for the planet.' Cairo is a world folded onto itself, an impenetrable labyrinth of narrow roadways camouflaged by trash; it is home to 60,000 Zaballeen (or Zabbaleen), Egypt's 'garbage people. For generations, the residents of Cairo have depended on the Zaballeen to collect their trash, paying them only a minimal amount for their garbage collection services. The Zaballeen survive by recycling the city's waste. These entrepreneurial garbage workers recycle 80% of all the garbage they collect, creating what is arguably the world's most efficient waste disposal system. When the city they keep clean suddenly decides to replace the Zaballeen with multinational garbage disposal companies, the Zaballeen community finds itself at a crossroads. Face to face with the globalization of their trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community.

***Giving It Up*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Frank Ruy

Cast: Arnold Cousart, Jonzen Cousart, Keith Respecio, Mark Mullen, Sergio Huapaya, Ullises Rios
The story of two former LA gang members who founded JFX Direct, a Los Angeles based celebrity photo agency. Now in their 30s with families to support, these two best friends find themselves fighting a complicated reality of alliances and rivalries within the professional world of high profile celebrity photography and their not so far behind lives in the often fatal world of the LA gang scene.

***Greenlit*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Miranda Bailey

Cast: Miranda Bailey, Lauren Selman, Matt Leutwyler, Zach Gilford

Explore the damaging effects of the film business on the environment. *Greenlit* follows Miranda, an indie producer, to the realization that making movies has a tendency to be extremely wasteful. The documentary explores films that have wreaked havoc on our environment and poses the question: What can we do to soften our carbon footprint as filmmakers?

***God Went Surfing With the Devil*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Alexander Klein

Cast: Matthew Olsen, Arthur Rashkovan, Gil Keren, Mofeed Jabar, Tony Copti, Martin Fletcher, Yoni Klein
A look at the Israel-Palestine conflict through the lens of surfing.

***Gypsy Child Thieves*, United Kingdom - U.S. PREMIERE**

Director: Liviu Tipurita

Romanian Gypsy organized criminal gangs take advantage of the fact that in most European countries the age of legal responsibility is 14. They traffic children on a massive scale and make millions of Euros by ruthlessly exploiting them.

***Her Name Was Steven*, USA - SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Director: Dave Timko

Steven Stanton, former Largo, FL, city manager, appeared to have the perfect life: a loving wife and son and an influential job. Stanton described it as "paradise." That dream world – "Steven's World" – all changed when Stanton's plans to become a woman were revealed. Stanton tells a dramatic story of the public and private struggle during this transition. Interviews with Stanton's wife, teenage son and co-workers, along with childhood diaries, personal journals, and family films, take viewers into the world of Steven as he transitions to Susan.

***Ida's Dance Club*, Israel**

Director: Dalit Kimor

Once a year in Ida's club, a ballroom dancing competition takes place. All the competitors are way past retirement age, but that doesn't stop them from dancing and singing, to falling in love and being disappointed. The magical atmosphere of the club and the ballroom dancing, gives them the strength to overcome the wear and tear of time, the health problems and difficult memories. They become princes and princesses, for whom anything is still a possibility.

***Milking the Rhino*, USA**

Director: David E. Simpson

The Maasai of Kenya and Namibia's Himba - two of Earth's oldest cattle cultures - are in the midst of upheaval, all the while trying to navigate the dangers and costs of living with wildlife. After a century of 'white man conservation', which displaced them and fueled resentment towards wildlife, they are vying to share the wildlife-tourism pie. Community-based conservation, which tries to balance the needs of wildlife and people, has been touted as 'win-win' with the reality being more complex. Charting the collision of ancient ways with Western expectations, MILKING THE RHINO tells intimate, hopeful and heartbreaking stories of people facing deep cultural change.

***Moonshine to the Finish Line*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: John Lyons Murphy

Cast: Junior Johnson, Bobby Allison, Tiger Tom Pistone, Frances Flock, Wanda Lund Early

American stock car racing today is corporate and highly sanitized. In the early days, it was anything but. Racing began with the advent of Prohibition. Moonshiners sped illegal whiskey through the back woods, sirens and gunfire left in their dust. The early days of the sport, and the men and women at its heart, have largely been forgotten.

***Our Summer in Tehran*, Iran, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Justine Shapiro

A Jewish American mom, and her six-year-old son Mateo go to Tehran in the summer of 2007. Over three months, Justine and Mateo shared daily life in Tehran with three middle class families from very different backgrounds. Fine lines of tension run through this story as Justine contends with the concern of friends and family and the obstacles imposed by Iran's government officials.

***Queen of Jerusalem*, Israel**

Director: Dalia Mevorach, Dani Dothan

Professor Trude Dothan, 86, is the first lady of Israeli archeology. She is an Israel Prize laureate and an international expert on the Philistines. Her son, Dani Dothan, decides it is time to 'excavate' his mother's energetic life. But then she falls and is housebound for the first time in her life. Dani returns home and discovers a life that his mother kept hidden from him. Trude catalogs objects, drawings, even death masks. Layer after layer, Dani uncovers a world he never knew; as the layers unravel, so does the relationship between mother and son.

***Rosa's Journey- The Story of a Nation*, Australia - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Luigi Acquisto

The journey of independent East Timor through the eyes of a remarkable and resilient woman. Following the acclaimed documentary East Timor - Birth of a Nation, Rosa's Journey picks up the story of young East Timorese widow Rosa Martins and her family seven years after independence. Unlike the celebratory climate of 2000, life in East Timor is violent and democracy fragile as the world's youngest nations faces an uncertain future.

***Sayed Kashua- Forever Scared*, Israel - U.S. PREMIERE**

Director: Dorit Zimbalist

Follow Kashua, an Israeli - Arab author and scriptwriter, for seven years through the upheavals and events that change his life. This is an intimate yet political portrait of a writer and publicist who is also a loving husband and a father of two. His family pays a heavy price for the choices he makes and the perpetual wandering from place to place, from nation to nation, belonging neither here nor there.

***The Desert of Forbidden Art*, Russian Federation/USA/Uzbekistan**

Director: Tchavdar Georgiev, Amanda Pope

Risking being denounced as an 'enemy of the people,' Igor Savitsky rescues 40,000 forbidden fellow artists' works and creates in a far desert of Soviet Uzbekistan a museum now worth millions.

***The Elephant in the Living Room*, USA – FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Michael Webber

A film that offers an unprecedented glimpse into the fascinating subculture of raising the most deadly and exotic animals in the world as common household pets.

***Thespians*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Warren Skeels

Every performer starts somewhere and many of them started in their high school thespian troupe. For kids in Florida- that means possibly ending up performing on a stage for over 7,000 other students who share their passion. Follow 4 of those troupes as they embark on the incredible journey of preparing for the largest high school theatre festival in the world.

***Wings of Silver: The Vi Cowden Story*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Mark Bonn, Christine Bonn

Cast: Vi Cowden

When the country needed every man, she answered the call. They weren't formally recognized, received no military benefits - many Americans don't even know that they exist. A story of triumph and inspiration

over adversity, Vi and her fellow Women Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.) were not only crucial to the war effort during World War II, they also changed the course of Women's history.

SHORT FILMS

***Amexica*, USA**

Director: Ron Krauss

Cast: AnnaLynne McCord, Joseph Ferrante, Jordan James

The story of a young boy from Mexico who is sold by a human trafficking ring to two con artists from Los Angeles with a get-rich scheme. They portray him as their son, extorting money from innocent people by risking the boy's life in staged automobile accidents. Trapped, alone with his captors and unable to speak for himself, the boy decides to take his fate into his own hands, forever changing the lives of the people around him.

***Avabot*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Jamie Surgener

Cast: Tracy Surgener

A short sci-fi space adventure that takes place approximately three hundred years in the future.

***Banana Bread*, USA**

Director: Barton Landsman

Cast: John Livingston, Deena Freeman, Robert Silver

As Matt Meyerson has coffee at his parents' house, we see that he has a worried Jewish mother. She's concerned about his health and the freelance nature of his work. But after Matt leaves for his job, we discover that his mom might actually have good reason to worry.

***Curious Thing*, USA**

Director: Alain R. Hain

Cast: Danny Bernardy, Matthew Wilkas, Rebecca Pappa

Jared is closeted. Sam is straight. They find a connection in each other that they've never experienced before, but where do they go from there? Using documentary audio as narration for the film, "Curious Thing" crosses many boundaries, both in form and subject.

***El Encargado*, Spain - USA PREMIERE**

Director: Sergio Barrejón

Cast: Iñigo Navares

Martin (9), is put in charge of his class during the teacher's absence. He must write on the blackboard the names of those who speak. An easy job... until the class bully starts talking.

***El Tio Facundo*, Mexico**

Director: Alejandro Cachoua

Cast: Jorge Ali, Rafael Lahera, Carlos E. Almirante, Broselianda Hernandez, Monica Molinet, Amada Morado

In Cártamo, where I was born, something happened during the summer of 1952 that pretty much shattered my hopes of ever having a normal life. José, my father, and the rest of my family had lived quietly there until that Tuesday, August 12 at 10 am when without any warnings Uncle Facundo showed up. My father always told us he was the black sheep of the family and Aunt Fermina claimed that he had poisoned his wife and kept all her money. Nevertheless, as soon as he arrived we were all charmed by his charisma and

it was due to his advice that we got to feel true happiness for the first time in our lives. But just as soon as someone starts enjoying himself a little, things always end up getting inexplicably out of control, don't they? Our only way out was to go back to our old life, but how could we tell Uncle Facundo?

***Encuentro*, Spain - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Nick Igea

Cast: Álex Garcia

A boy and a girl accidentally meet on the street, three years after she broke up with him.

***Father and Sister*, South Korea/ USA**

Director: Soyeon Kim

A chance occurrence leads to a workplace temptation

***Heart*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Jill Dana Siegel

Heart. This film was a semifinalist in the Stand Up to Cancer Film Challenge 2008.

***Hector Corp.*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Gary Lee

Cast: Roger Horn, Preston Smith

A thriller about a company, Hector Corporation, that must take extreme measures to manage their employees with unexpected executioners. Our righteous hero, Victor, takes us through his experience and shows how justice prevails in the end.

***JENNY*, United Kingdom - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Jonson D'Angelo

Cast: Ella Blake, Katherine Ingle, Lorcan O'Toole, Camille Coduri, Alfie Allen

Jenny is a modern day fable that follows the life of a young girl, who believes that her popularity status at school will increase if she becomes more like her peers who are obsessed with fashion and material goods.

***Kilo*, USA**

Director: Kiel Murray, Phil Lorin

Cast: Elizabeth Ho, Joaquin Garay III, Nik Tyler, Culley Fredricksen

Police officer MIN LEE is tired of being underutilized in the department and underestimated as an officer. When she gets a chance to work one undercover shift, she jumps on it, eager to prove herself.

***Leonardo*, USA**

Director: Jim Capobianco

Follow Leonardo as he concocts his flying machine, gets ready for flight and finally...well you just have to see where the maestro's creativity takes him.

***Lucky Lotus*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Ken Ochiai

Cast: Catherine Ai, Caroline Do

Cong owns and operates Lucky Lotus--a successful hostess bar where men come for flirtatious conversation and company. Cong's only daughter (Lien) is her most popular hostess, but Lien has become jaded by the flashy lifestyle that Cong has forged for her since leaving Vietnam. When Cong discovers that

Lien plans to leave Lucky Lotus for a life in New York City, the two struggle over the limits of sacrifice and family.

***Make-Up*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Scott Tuft

Cast: Julie Hagerty, Leisha Hailey

The very image of a happy suburban housewife, Shelley's greatest concern seems to be finding the ideal temperature for roasting a chicken. However, when an intrepid cosmetics saleswoman, calls on her home, it becomes clear that Shelley is not as content as one might think.

***Mind the Gap*, Canada - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Shaun Majumder

Cast: Kumar Pallana, Shelby Fenner, Lyndsay Reader

When a sexy beautiful young woman sits next to a sweet elderly man on a train, the ride is anything but boring.

***No Country for Old Yeller*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Arbi Pedrossian

Cast: Todd Ritz, Tonya Cornelisse, Daniel Zacapa, Terence Rotolo, Peter O'Meara, McLean McGown, Oriana Cognata

Lane Hicks is a young, bright Hollywood assistant who works for a sleazy but successful reality show producer. His tasks are usually inane and degrading, but reach absurdity when the boss asks Lane to have his dog euthanized.

***Obedience*, USA**

Director: David Holechek, Daniel Holechek

Cast: Rene Scheyes

Jason wakes up on the day of a very important work presentation to find that he is being followed by a series of mysterious, floating, nagging words. It isn't until he can take a step back from his busy life that he begins to realize the meaning of these ominous and annoying messages.

***Out of Sync*, The Netherlands**

Director: Peet Gelderblam

Cast: Romijn Conen, Marieke de Kruijf, Beau van Erven Dorens

A man departs his house, only to realize what he leaves behind. By separating sounds from visuals, *Out of Sync* paints a uniquely involving portrait of a marriage falling apart.

***Poi Dogs*, USA**

Director: Joel Moffett

Cast: Toa Smith, Anela Manu

The story of two local Hawaii teenagers and their awkward attempts at expressing a budding romantic interest in each other.

***Porcelain & Diamonds*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Ryan Silbert

Cast: John Lavelle, Joan Barber, Chloe Whiteford, Norm Golden

'Why don't fancy homes ever have a plunger in the bathroom?' With a splash of 30's slapstick in an 80's comedy of circumstance, *Porcelain & Diamonds* centers on Jimmy Waldricki's heroic quest to pop the question when events conspire against him.

***Procession*, USA**

Director: Beth Spitalny

Cast: Lisa Strauss, Mark Miller

With their relationship kept a secret due to their religion, Shayna is unable to grieve when her boyfriend passes away suddenly.

***Road to Moloch*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Robert Glickert

Cast: Erik Fellows, Westley Thornton

While on a mission to locate three missing soldiers, a team of reconnaissance marines encounter a blood-spattered Iraqi stumbling through the desert. After following the distraught man into the depths of an insurgent cave, the marines make a horrifying discovery bringing them face-to-face with an ancient evil.

***Second Wind*, USA - FLORIDA PREMIERE**

Director: Ian Worrell

The story of two friends, an old man and a twenty foot cat: On the journey their friendship is tested when they make a strange discovery.

***Skylight*, Canada**

Director: David Bass

A cautionary tale about the effects of the hole in the ozone layer and how it affects penguins in the Antarctic.

***Spoiler*, United Kingdom - WORLD PREMIERE**

Cast: Al Weaver, Stephen Wight, Michelle Dockery, Joel Beckett

A couple of idiots who hang around outside cinemas shouting out the endings of films to people waiting to buy their tickets.

***Summer*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Marc Wiskemann

The love we find on a warm summer evening is sometimes the most fleeting love of all.

***The Cemetery Club*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Yitz Brilliant

Cast: Emily Mitchell, Larry Swansen, Tom Fenaughty, Thomas Crouch

Edgar, recently deceased and enjoying his afterlife, discovers that his nagging widow Helen has bought the plot next to his own. Now he must see to it that Helen doesn't die before he can find a way to prevent her from joining 'The Cemetery Club'-- and ruining his afterlife.

***The Fantasy Factory*, France - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Genevray Jerome

Cast: Carcaud Guillaume, Le Moal Manon

Jean was brought up by his father to worship Super X Man, the super hero of Sex. He falls in love with Audrey, who spent her childhood reading love-filled fairy tales. The collision of their contrasted

upbringings leads them to create the Fantasy Factory, an initiation for their child to the wonders of love and desire

***The Farm*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Jon Hill

Cast: Justin Scot, Garrett M. Brown, Dave Matos, Jason Wade

Set against the snow-capped mountains of Utah, *The Farm* is an honest look at the trials of America's housing crisis

***The Hybrid Union*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Serguei Kouchnerov

The heroes, Plus and Minus, whose energy is running out, go on a quest to find a new source. On their journey, they meet unusual new characters and novel challenges.

***The Mill*, Ireland- WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: David Freyne

Cast: Liam McEvoy, Fionn O' Shea, Lesley Conroy, Paul Roe

A family camping trip takes an unexpected turn when a young boy, Declan, awakes in their tent to find that he is entirely alone. Scared and confused, the boy runs through the forest until he reaches a dilapidated mill. Do the answers lie within?

***The New Tenants*, Denmark/ USA**

Director: Joachim Back

Cast: David Rakoff, Jamie Harrold, Vincent D'Onofrio, Kevin Corrigan, Liane Balaban, Helen Hanft

A prying neighbor, a glassy-eyed drug dealer, and a husband brandishing both a weapon and a vendetta make up the welcome wagon.

***The One Last Time*, USA/ United Kingdom**

Director: Scott Weintrob

Cast: Siobhan Flynn, Hakeem Kae Kazim

Downtown Los Angeles - the last customers are finishing their early evening business at the bank. At 6:08pm on 09/09/09 there will be an automatic timer test on the vault. The bank heist is planned to perfection, everything is ready and every eventuality if accounted for, what could go wrong?

***Tóg Mise Leat*, Ireland - NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE**

Director: Aaron O'Reilly

Cast: Jac Mordaunt, Tom O'Sullivan, Melanie Clark Pullen

Quiet and diligent, late on Christmas Eve young Daithi makes a discovery about Santa, the lie we all conspire to keep from children. Disturbed by the obvious consequences of what this means, and how he now sees his parents, he embarks on a solitary journey to change his future.

***Touch*, USA**

Director: Jen McGowan

Cast: Lily Knight, Rachel Konouse

Two women make an unusual connection while waiting for a train.

***Under God*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Richard Farmer

Cast: Jeffrey Buckner Ford, Rob Monroe, Barry Levy

Combining questions of Faith, Technology and Politics, UNDER GOD is a Cold War-era parable about the day President Eisenhower met with the world's first super computer, UNIVAC.

***What If...*, India - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: V. Karuna Prakash

The vision of a young boy, who in his leisure time creates a big message through his small act of pass timing.

***Woke Up Ugly*, USA - WORLD PREMIERE**

Director: Ryan Parker

Cast: G.B. Shannon, Annie Gaia

Herbert Thibadeaux is changing. One day he wakes up malformed, the next he's too handsome for society to accept, but his transformations raise suspicion in the girl of his dreams who's been through a transformation of her own. Now, Herbert must make a sacrifice to prove his love.

VOICES OF LOCAL FILMS

December

Director: Dr. Gary Dresden

Two men, father and son, so much alike, so very different, rushing to fulfill their own destinies, on a collision course that will irreparably damage the foundation of a life long relationship.

Girl in a Cage

Director: Hiu Kwong Yau

A girl kept in a cage bonds with her master. What happens when his ownership no longer exists?

Last Ditch Effort

Director: Cliff Burgess

Cast: Cliff Burgess, Cavedo

Two amateur criminals, one mysterious bag and a gun in the glove compartment. What could possibly go wrong?

Rise

Directors: Nick DePalo, Joel Barham

Cast: Nick DePalo, Erik Rinaldi, Andrea Betancur, Dan DeSimone, Kevius Hodges, Maria Pennella, Giuseppe Capuano

For Steve, a high school wrestler, his senior year is everything he expected it would be until he and his friend Dan, a college bound football star, are involved in a near fatal auto accident. After Steve emerges from the accident untouched and Dan is sidelined with injuries Steve struggles to make sense of the guilt and gratitude he feels. His past normal way of life seems to have become a burden. Steve's life is beginning to spin out of control. . . What will it take for Steve to RISE up and regain control of his life?

Tara

Director: Laurence Walsh

A man, his mysteriously suffering wife and their disconnected daughter go to meet his mysterious new

boss. Instead of an interview, a confrontation is about to take place, one which may be the key to healing a family.

The Breakup

Director: Elizabeth Dashiell

It has been years now since the breakup of Barbie & Ken. She has moved on with new jobs and new loves, but no one ever stopped to ask what Ken was thinking...until now. Set to Voltaire's "Ex Lover's Lover," Ken Doll gets the final word.

STUDENT SHOWCASE FINALISTS

College Feature/Shorts Finalists

Picture Day – 17 minutes 20 seconds

High School is tough. Freshman Miles Dufort will risk everything to take a perfect school picture and give himself a chance to survive the next four years. Directed by: Ken Adachi Florida State University

Zimbabwe -- 16 minutes

Amidst the turmoil and uncertainty of a militant regime, two young children of Zimbabwe are forced into a fight they hardly understand when they are pitted one against the other during a sudden farm invasion. Directed by: Anjuli Hinds Florida State University

The Quartering Act -- 17 minutes 40 seconds

France. 1944. A grieving mother confronts the enemy when three desperate German deserters guarding a dangerous secret invade her home in the dead of night. Directed by: Stephen Bell Florida State University

High School Feature/Shorts Finalists

Love Story – 6 minutes 19 seconds

What happens when a parent's wishes come between two adults who are in love? Religion is powerful, but love should conquer all. Produced by: Lori Perry G-Star School of the Arts

Sunder – 5 minutes 43 seconds

A short experimental piece about the loss of childlike perspective. Directed by: Kenzie Cooke & Marcos Gasc, G-Star School of the Arts

Lost and Gone Forever -- 29 minutes 10 seconds

Andrew Gardener, a recent high school graduate visits his cousins in Miami. Directed by: David Harrison, Design & Architecture Senior High School

Commercial/PSA

Listen Up PSA – 30 seconds

The Public service announcement lets children that listen to music at a high volume become aware of the dangers of listening to music so loud and how they can better themselves while still enjoying themselves. Directed by: Jared Mizel, Produced by: Jordan Greenstein, Edited by: Adam Greenstein, Spanish River High School

Documentary

Nanny's Untold Story – 5 minutes 23 seconds

This documentary tells the story of my grandmother and how she deals with her experiences from WWII. It highlights her most poignant stories and how she lives her life with those memories. It also highlights my frustration in how she does not speak about her experiences publicly. It is a chilling, personal and inspiring story about my grandmother and how she lives with her personal horrors. Directed by: Sophie Green, A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Music Video

Sleepyhead – 2 minutes 56 seconds

A boy wakes up, enters a dream world and experiences a whole new way of seeing the world, and ends up back in bed. This abstract music video is meant to explore the cycles in our lives, and the way we perceive them as dull or vivid. Directed by: Aaron Kurlander, Assistant Director: Savannah Bailey, Assistant Camera: Jessica Davis & Sophie Green, A.W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts

Screenwriting

Death & Life

Just as he is about to be executed, a killer learns that he is the only bone marrow match for a young girl dying of leukemia. He'll donate his marrow – if – the Governor commutes his death sentence. Written by: Michael Chasin, Miami Film School

Poster

Hailey Mears, Seminole Ridge High School