

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Richmond International Film Festival Names the 2013 Grand Jury Members, and Releases This Year's In-house Films and Special Event Schedule

Richmond, VA – Feb, 15, 2013– The Richmond International Film Festival (RIFF), held at the Byrd Theater Feb 28-March 3, announces this year's Grand Jury Members: Tim & Daphne Reid of New Millennium Studios; Michael Mullen, Adjunct Professor at VCU Brand Center & former Creative Director at the Martin Agency; Mary Nelson, Deputy Director of the Virginia Film Office; Virginia Bertholet, Producer; Jerry Williams, TV Jerry and Producer; Anne Chapman, Anne Chapman Casting; Robert Griffith, Producer/Director; Michelle Kelly of CWA and Erica Arvold Casting; and Heather Waters, Producer/Director and Founder of RIFF.

Fifty three films will premiere at this year's festival, including the festival's in-house productions *STILLWATER LAKE*, a short psychological thriller and *THE YOUTH ROUNDTABLE PROJECT*, the annual community documentary feature filmed last month. This documentary features local cast from the new VCU ASPIRE program and the seventh grade class at Saint Benedict's Catholic School. The film is a three day youth 'think tank' project that focuses on presenting students with the challenge of undergoing a rigorous process of research, debate, and problem solving as it relates to the decline of the Amazon Rainforest, illegal gold mining, and resource exploitation.

For the project, Heather Waters, the film's Producer/Writer/Director, collaborated with Sarah DuPont and the Amazon Aid Foundation to screen the foundation's documentary film, *AMAZON GOLD*, as a platform to prepare the students. *AMAZON GOLD* is an Official Selection film in this year's festival, directed by award winning filmmaker, Rueben Aaronson and narrated by Sissy Spacek and Herbie Hancock. Additionally, Waters worked with Academy nominated Director, Richard Robbins, to show the Peru segment of his forthcoming film, *GIRL RISING*. *GIRL RISING* will be released mid-March, and features penmanship by award winning writers and narrated by Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Cate Blanchett, Selena Gomez, Kerry Washington, and more.

The feature, *AMAZON GOLD* and the teaser for *GIRL RISING* will screen during the festival, Saturday, March 2 at 11:45am. *STILLWATER LAKE* premieres Sunday, March 3 at 2pm, and *THE YOUTH ROUNDTABLE PROJECT* premieres February 28 at 11am.

Fifteen countries are represented in this year's films, ranging from emerging artists to Oscar award winning filmmakers. 49 films will screen at the Byrd Theater with Q&As to follow with visiting filmmakers; 3 films will screen at the Virginia Historical Society, Saturday, March 2 at 1pm with a panel event to follow with visiting filmmakers; and 1 music history documentary film will screen at the Camel, Saturday, March 2 at 5:30pm with a panel to follow with the film's producers and Richmond based musician, Robbin Thompson who also makes a cameo appearance in the film. A live musical showcase will commence after the panel.

Official Selection screenwriters and more than ninety national and international filmmakers will be in Richmond for the premiere of their film and competing for top Grand Jury honors, including producers, directors, and cast members. Of the fifty three films, ten are local to Virginia.

This year's special events include 53 film screenings, panel events co-hosted by the James River Writers Society, the Virginia Historical Society, and the Camel, industry party mixers held at Balliceaux Restaurant and the Camel, filmmaker and writer breakfasts held at Starlite Restaurant & Lounge, Q&As with the public, Thursday's community outreach day for youth, a musical showcase that introduces visiting filmmakers to local musicians, and the Red Carpet Awards with live musical entertainment that includes Reggie Pace of Bon Iver, Scott Burton of Glows in the Dark, the American Youth Harp Ensemble, and Bob Gullledge on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

The Red Carpet Awards will be held Sunday, March 3 at 6:30pm at the Byrd Theater. This event, along with all film screenings and panel events are open to the public. Dress is upscale casual to Black Tie, the red carpet opens at 6pm.

RIFF is an inclusive and spirited festival designed to honor true film artists; RIFF is a competitive festival that awards films and screenplays of all genres and niches. The festival also provides an additional collaborative platform between local filmmakers and others across the country with the purpose of promoting film production in Virginia.

Premiere sponsors of the 2013 festival include the Virginia Film Office, The University of Richmond Modlin Center for the Arts, the Virginia Historical Society, Balliceaux Restaurant, The Media Industry Xchange, Creative World Awards, Sony Creative Software, Virginia Production Alliance, the Linden Row Inn, and VCU ASPIRE.

For a full screening schedule and complete information regarding the Richmond International Film Festival, visit www.richmondfilmfestival.com. For press images and further info, email info@richmondfilmfestival.com Advance tickets are now on sale via the website or at the ticket line: 804-219-0675.

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www.richmondfilmfestival.com

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