

# **NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

The **Nantucket Film Festival** will have its premiere this June 1996. With its grand history and unparalleled beauty, Nantucket is the ideal setting for this unique festival. Nantucket has long been a creative haven to many notable writers and artists in the film community including: Jane Alexander, Russell Baker, Nathaniel Benchley, Peter Benchley, Frank Conroy, John Guare, David Halberstam, J. Seward Johnson, John Johnson, Larry Mannes, Herman Melville, John Shea and Edwin Sherin.

The **Nantucket Film Festival** will introduce a new approach to film festivals, one that celebrates screenwriters and their craft. In this environment, screenwriters will have the opportunity to collaborate with other writers and artists in the film community. With a program that showcases original screenplays and adaptations, the Festival promises to become an important annual event in the lives of screenwriters and filmmakers.

The program will run for five days from June 19 through June 23. In addition to screenings of feature films, short films and documentaries, there will be question and answer sessions with the filmmakers. Panel discussions and staged readings will be held for the writers to present their works-in-progress.

Artists participating in the 1996 Festival thus far include: Jace Alexander, Donnick Cary, Frank Conroy, Maggie Conroy, Will Conroy, RJ Cutler, Julia Dray, Griffin Dunne, Tom Gilroy, Lee Grant, John Guare, John Johnson, Craig Lucas, Mary Stuart Masterson, Jim McKay, Anne Meredith, Rob Morrow, Robert Mitchell, Todd Robinson, Susan Sandler, John Shea, Edwin Sherin, John Stanton, Fisher Stevens, Ben Stiller, Lili Taylor and Frank Whaley.

The **Nantucket Film Festival** founders, **Jonathan Burkhart** (Executive Director) and **Jill Goode** (Producer and Artistic Director) both grew up on Nantucket and have been involved extensively in Nantucket's artistic community. Jonathan worked at Channel 3 Television and Jill was involved with the Nantucket Theater Workshop. Heading up the Festival staff are **Jenifer Estess** (Development Producer) and **Jocelyn Jansons** (Administrative Director).

Sponsors of the first annual Nantucket Film Festival include **Vanity Fair, NBC, Neutrogena, Budget Rent-A-Car, Colgan Air, Nantucket Nectars, Nantucket Bank, and Design Systems**. Festival supporters are the **Atlantic Foundation** and the **Writers Guild of America East**. The Nantucket Film Festival is a not-for-profit organization.

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Presented by the Nantucket Film Foundation, Inc.