

NFF⁷

THE SEARCH FOR DISTINCTION IN THE ART OF SCREENWRITING
THE 7TH ANNUAL NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL
JUNE 20-23, 2002

For Release May 13, 2002

**THE FARRELLY BROTHERS TOP THE LIST OF JURORS FOR
SHOWTIME'S TONY COX AWARD FOR SCREENWRITING**

**NAKED ANGELS TO PRESENT READING OF KENNETH
LONERGAN'S NEWEST SCREENPLAY**

**NEW PROGRAMS CELEBRATING TEENS AND THE ART OF
STORYTELLING ARE ANNOUNCED**

-- Seventh Annual Festival Takes Place June 20-23, 2002 --

May 13, 2002 (New York, NY) – The Nantucket Film Festival's (NFF) Festival Director Jill Goode and Artistic Director Mystelle Brabbee jointly announced this year's jurors (who will vote upon the Tony Cox Award for Screenwriting presented by Showtime and the annual Writer/Director award) along with new events to celebrate the art of screenwriting and storytelling.

The NFF has preserved its tradition of honoring talented writers with the Tony Cox Award For Screenwriting sponsored by Showtime Networks. The award is named after Showtime's former Chairman and CEO, Tony Cox, a long-time resident of Nantucket and a devoted contributor to the festival. This year's Tony Cox Award jurors are **Bobby and Peter Farrelly**, screenwriters and directors of such films as *Shallow Hal* and *There's Something About Mary*; **Adrienne Shelly**, actress, screenwriter, director and producer who has worked on such films as *Revolution #9* and *Urban Legends*; and **Oren Moverman**, screenwriter of *Face* and co-screenwriter of *Jesus' Son*.

Collaborating with the New York-based theater company the Naked Angels, the NFF brings the audience a rare glimpse into the creative processes between actor and writer with ***Naked Angels Presents Sight Unseen at NFF***. Actors will

could read 15-20 minute excerpts from screenplays that are works-in-progress. This year, the NFF is proud to announce that excerpts will be read from Kenneth Lonergan's newest, yet-to-be titled screenplay. The audience and the writers will share the opportunity to hear an actor's first impulse with the written word. Participating actors and additional screenplays will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Writer/Director award will once again be presented to the filmmaker who displays excellence while wearing both hats. Jurors for the Writer/Director Award include **Rosie Perez**, seen in *King of the Jungle*, *The 24 Hour Woman* and *Do the Right Thing*; **Ted Hope**, former Good Machine partner, and **Paul Speaker**, President of Madstone Films.

As a festival dedicated to the screenwriter, the NFF has always focused on the telling of good stories. As a logical extension of that philosophy, the Festival is introducing a new event: a night of live storytelling titled ***The Ice Storm: Tales of Situations You Didn't Want To Be Caught In***. The event will unite six people, each of whom will tell a five-minute tale reflecting the evening's theme. At the conclusion, anyone can drop their name in a hat and take five minutes to tell their own story.

This year, Eyebeam, the not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing access and education in the field of art and technology, will present ***Teens Eye on NFF Program and Jury***. The seven-day program, taking place June 16-23, will overlap the Festival and is designed to introduce seven Nantucket High School students to storytelling through new art and technology tools. *Teens Eye on NFF* students will learn the fundamentals of digital technology and the development of a good story. The students will work with filmmakers as well as technology professionals to create one-minute films that will premiere on the final day of the Festival. A special jury composed of local teenagers will give an award to the short film that most inspires dialogue on contemporary social issues.

The jury announcements and new initiatives were announced jointly by Festival Director Jill Goode and Artistic Director Mystelle Brabbee: "The NFF's dedication for the past seven years has always been to the screenwriter and the art of storytelling. We feel that this year's new events, which will complement our soon-to-be-announced film slate, will further emphasize our philosophy that it all begins with the screenplay."

As previously announced, **James Schamus**, Oscar®-Nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* in 2000, will be honored with NBC's Screenwriter Tribute. Schamus also won a Best Screenplay award at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival for *The Ice Storm*. He has written the screenplays for *The Wedding Banquet* and *Eat Drink Man Woman*, both of which were nominated for the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Language Film. He is currently writing the screenplay for *The Hulk*, to be directed by Ang Lee.

Schamus was recently named co-president of Focus, Universal Studios new specialty film unit that combines Good Machine and USA Films.

The seventh annual NFF will take place from June 20 – 23, 2002 on the picturesque island of Nantucket, MA. Film selections for this year's Festival will be announced in the coming weeks.

Even in this year's difficult climate, the NFF has persevered and had incredible success and support in it's funding. There's a great line-up of sponsors who've partnered with the Festival for this year, some returning and some new faces. The sponsors for the 2002 NFF are; Presenting Sponsors; SHOWTIME and NBC, Official Sponsors; ABSOLUT and WESTWOOD ONE, Producing Sponsors; PACIFIC NATIONAL; A FLEET BOSTON FINANCIAL COMPANY, DON KING PRODUCTIONS and AIR CHARTER CLUB, Contributing Sponsors; ROOTS; STELLA ARTOIS, FIJI, CHRYSLER, SUNDANCE CHANNEL, WRITER'S GUILD OF AMERICA, EAST, FHM COLLECTIONS, MASSACHUSETTS FILM OFFICE, VARIETY, CAPE AIR, FINANCIAL TIMES, TATTINGER, ST. FRANCIS WINERY and BACHMAN.

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