



For Immediate Release

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NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL EXPANDS SCREENWRITING TRIBUTE TO HONOR BARRY LEVINSON, MICHAEL ARNDT, AND DAVIS GUGGENHEIM TO COMMEMORATE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

All-Star Comedy Roundtable presented by Ben Stiller to include Sarah Silverman and Zach Galifianakis in first regular outing

New York, NY – The Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) unveils an expanded program for its landmark fifteenth anniversary and announces more special guests that will be participating in events throughout the festival. Passes are currently available through the festival's new media-rich website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org). Ticket pre-selection is available for pass holders beginning May 19 and ending May 26. Individual tickets go on sale May 28.

Sarah Silverman ("The Sarah Silverman Program") and **Zack Galifianakis** (*The Hangover*) will both be among participants in the **All-Star Comedy Roundtable presented and moderated by Ben Stiller**. "The Nantucket Film Festival is defined by screenwriting and incredible signature programs that you simply won't see anywhere else," said Executive Director **Colin Stanfield**. "Year in and year out, Late Night Storytelling and the Screenwriters Tribute draw lines around the block and we can already tell that Ben's Comedy event will be a another Nantucket Film Festival classic. Ben, Zach and Sarah on the same stage? It's going to be awesome!"

The annual **Screenwriting Tribute** also expands to honor a trinity of Academy Award® winning writers, all of whom have had a profound impact in the world of cinematic storytelling: **Barry Levinson** (*Diner*, *Tootsie*), **Michael Arndt** (*Toy Story 3*, *Little Miss Sunshine*), and **Davis Guggenheim** (*Waiting for "Superman"*, *An Inconvenient Truth*). Tickets and passes are currently available on the festival's website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

"Few storytellers have amassed a body of work like Barry Levinson. A masterful screenwriter, director and producer, he's delivered smart and literate films at an astonishing rate for over thirty years: *Diner*, *The Natural*, *Young Sherlock Holmes*, *Tin Men*, *Good Morning, Vietnam*, *Rain Man*, *Avalon*, *Bugsy*, *Wag the Dog* *Bandits* and the upcoming *You Don't Know Jack*, to name just a few." said Artistic Director **Mystelle Brabbée**.

Ms. Brabbée continued, “For our landmark anniversary, we felt it was vital to celebrate our commitment to storytelling by recognizing notable writers in additional fields. Michael Arndt has proven himself to be a fast-rising voice in the screenwriting landscape. We salute Arndt’s undeniable talent with the New Voices in Screenwriting Tribute, celebrating the two stellar screenplays he’s written. We also wanted to pay tribute to the power of storytelling in documentary filmmaking and Davis Guggenheim was a perfect fit with his ability to marshal often startling or frightening information into a narrative, keeping viewers engaged, while delivering weighty news.”

In keeping with NFF’s mission of spotlighting writers, the Festival will announce the winner of Showtime’s annual Tony Cox Award for Screenwriting. The winner will be feted at the Showtime Award Ceremony at the Festival. Members of this year’s jury include noted producers **Stephanie Davis** (HBO’s “Bored to Death”), **Joana Vicente** (*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*), and **Steven Haft** (*Dead Poet’s Society*).

Among other awards given at NFF® this year will be The Compass Rose Acting Award, The Audience Award for Best Feature & Best Short, SHOWTIME’S TONY COX Awards for Best Screenwriting in a Feature Film and Short Film, Teen View on NFF® Award, Best Storytelling in a Documentary Film, and the Adrienne Shelly Excellence in Filmmaking Award.

Screenwriting Tributee Barry Levinson will also participate in the Festival’s *In Their Shoes...*™ event. This special event is an intimate, in-depth conversation hosted by renowned MSNBC political commentator and passionate cinephile **Chris Matthews**.

Also returning this year will be the uproarious and unpredictable Late Night Storytelling, hosted by **Anne Meara** and brand new co-host **Jonathan Ames** (HBO’s “Bored to Death”). Participants include five surprise guests as well as audience members. Past storytellers include Ben Stiller, Jim Carrey, Tina Fey, Mos Def, Rosie Perez, Cheryl Hines, Laird Hamilton, Olympia Dukakis, Paul Rudd, Alan Cumming, Fisher Stevens, and Brian Williams.

Other special events include Morning Coffee With...®, which draws sell-out crowds annually. The daily panels take place every morning and invite attendees to join filmmaker experts for an intimate mix of coffee, conversation, bagels and shoptalk with some of their favorite filmmakers.

The opening night films for this year’s Nantucket Film Festival will be *Toy Story 3*, from Disney•Pixar, and NFF® veterans Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini’s *The Extra Man*, from Magnolia Pictures. Closing the festival this year will be John Lennon biopic *Nowhere Boy* from The Weinstein Company.

The upcoming festival fellows should prove once again to be a herald for the Academy Awards®. Last year’s lineup included Academy Award® Winners *The Hurt Locker* and *The Cove* and 12 Oscar® nominations. Celebratory guests included Ben Stiller, Meg Ryan, Ben Foster, Brian Williams, Cheryl Hines, Harold Ramis, Fisher Stevens, Paul Giamatti, Peter & Bobby Farrelly, Lili Taylor, Chris Matthews, John Hamburg, Anne Meara, and many more. Additionally, last year’s Tony Cox Screenplay Competition winner *Future Weather* is scheduled to go into production summer 2010 and star Lily Taylor.

NFF was founded in 1996 to spotlight screenwriters, screenwriting and storytelling in today's cinema. The festival takes place the third week of June on the idyllic island of Nantucket, MA. Now in its fifteenth year, NFF has become a prestigious annual event within the international film industry. The festival is a significant attraction that draws over ten thousand attendees, screenwriters, producers, agents and development executives each year.

Additional films, events and attendees to be announced soon.

For more information please visit our website at www.nantucketfilmfestival.org.

The Films of the 2010 Nantucket Film Festival:

A Small Act – Jennifer Arnold directs the inspiring and captivating story of Chris Mburu and his “guardian angel” Hilde Back. When Hilde sponsored the education of a young, impoverished Kenyan student, she thought nothing of it. Now a UN lawyer, Chris decides to replicate Hilde’s generosity by starting his own scholarship fund.

Bill Cunningham New York – The film chronicles a man who is obsessively interested in only one thing - the pictures he takes that document the way people dress. With this singular goal, he has managed to create a poignant and ongoing portrait of New York City itself.

The Birth of Big Air – Academy Award® nominee Spike Jonze and extreme sport fanatic Johnny Knoxville, along with director Jeff Tremaine, showcase the inner workings and exploits of Mat Hoffman, the man who gave birth to “Big Air.”

Cairo Time – With a West-meets-East quality, *Cairo Time* describes the unexpected, unrequited love between an Arab man and a North American woman. Juliette (Patricia Clarkson) travels to Cairo to meet her husband. A UN official working in Gaza, Mark is unavoidably delayed and sends his friend Tareq to escort her throughout the beautiful and exotic city.

The Concert – A celebrated Russian conductor, whose championing of Jewish musicians cost him a demotion to janitor, plans to reunite his long gone orchestra and make a triumphant return. Along the way, he reunites with a young violin virtuoso (Mélanie Laurent), who holds the key to his past and to his future.

Countdown to Zero - During the Cold War, the bomb loomed large in the public mind. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the bomb became a symbol of another era. An alarming and terrifying exploration of the dangers of nuclear weapons, *Countdown to Zero* exposes a variety of present day threats and features insights from a host of international experts and world leaders who advocate total global disarmament.

Diner (Barry Levinson Retrospective) - A lively, poignant tale set in 1959, *Diner* centers on a group of young male friends coping with early adulthood and the new responsibilities that come with it while hanging out at Fells Point Diner. The first of four distinctly personal and semi-autobiographical films set in the Baltimore of Levinson's youth, *Diner* launched successful careers for Kevin Bacon, Ellen Barkin, Paul Reiser, and Mickey Rourke.

The Extra Man – Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini return to the Nantucket Film Festival with a sophisticated and offbeat comedy. Louis (Paul Dano) moves to New York City and finds residence sharing a tiny apartment with Henry Harrison (Kevin Kline), a man with a bizarre unpredictable schedule as an “extra man” – a male escort who serves as a social companion for wealthy widows.

Freedom Riders – A masterful example of filmic journalism, Stanley Nelson’s *Freedom Riders* tells the powerful, harrowing, and ultimately inspirational story of more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives by simply traveling together on buses and trains through the Deep South in 1961, deliberately violating Jim Crow laws.

Get Low – With outstanding performances by Robert Duvall, Bill Murray, and Sissy Spacek, *Get Low* is based on the true story of Felix “Bush” Breazeale, a backwoods recluse who rides to town with a shotgun and a wad of cash and announces his intention to stage a “living funeral,” where anyone who has heard a story about him is welcome to tell it.

His & Hers – A mesmerizing cinematic mosaic, *His & Hers* tells a 90-year-old love story through the collective voice of 70 women at different stages of their lives. The hallways, living rooms, and kitchens of the Irish Midlands become the canvas for the film’s rich tapestry of female characters.

Last Train Home – Emotionally engaging and visually beautiful, *Last Train Home* portrays the fractured lives of a single migrant family caught up in the desperate annual migration that takes place every Chinese New Year when millions of migrant factory workers attempt to return home by train.

Mister Rogers & Me – America’s Favorite Neighbor, PBS icon Fred Rogers, sends MTV producer Benjamin Wagner on a quest for depth and simplicity amidst a shallow and complex media landscape. Armed with an HDDV camera, Wagner and his brother set out to find out more about the man himself.

Nowhere Boy – Liverpool 1955: in a family full of secrets, two bold women clash over John: Mimi (Kristin Scott Thomas), the buttoned-up Aunt who raised him, and Julia, the prodigal mother. Yearning for a normal family, John escapes into the new and exciting world of rock n’ roll in Sam Taylor-Wood’s extraordinary first feature about John Lennon’s early years.

The Romantics – Katie Holmes gives an impressive performance in Galt Niederhoffer’s daring directorial debut, *The Romantics*. The wedding of Lila Hayes (Anna Paquin) and Tom McDevon (Josh Duhamel) reunites a group of Yale friends, including Lila’s maid of honor and Tom’s ex-girlfriend Laura (Katie Holmes).

The Secret of Kells – Adventure, action, and danger await Brendan who must fight Vikings and a serpent god to find a crystal and complete the legendary Book of Kells in this gorgeous and inventive film nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature.

Smash His Camera – Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis sued him, Marlon Brando broke his jaw and Steve McQueen gave him a look that would have killed, if looks could kill. To the

celebrities he pursued, photographer Ron Galella was the beast who threatened beauty. Yet he found something essential in his real-life subjects, and he gave it permanence.

Summer Pasture – Locho and his wife Yama depend on their herd of yaks for survival, just as their ancestors have for generations. *Summer Pasture* offers unique and breathtaking access to a highly insular community and a sensitive portrait of a family at a time of great transition, posing unprecedented challenges to nomadic life in eastern Tibet.

The Tillman Story – Featuring candid and revelatory interviews with Pat's fellow soldiers as well as his family, Amir Bar-Lev's emotional and insightful film not only shines a light on the shady aftermath of Pat's death and calls to task the entire chain of command, but also examines themes as timeless as the notion of heroism itself.

Toy Story 3 – Directed by Lee Unkrich, produced by Darla K. Anderson and written by Academy Award®-winner Michael Arndt (*Little Miss Sunshine*), *Toy Story 3* welcomes Woody, Buzz, and the whole gang back to the big screen as Andy prepares to depart for college and his loyal toys find themselves in...Daycare!

Waiting for "Superman" – The director of *An Inconvenient Truth*, Davis Guggenheim, examines the crisis of public education in the United States through multiple interlocking stories from a handful of students whose futures hang in the balance, to the educators and reformers trying to find real and lasting solutions within a dysfunctional system.

15th Anniversary Sidebar:

Another Harvest Moon – With a powerful performance by Anne Meara as Ella, *Another Harvest Moon* is a sensitive drama about four elderly Americans coping with life in a nursing home.

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work – This hilarious, perceptive, and entertaining new film by talented filmmakers and Nantucket Film Festival alumni, Annie Sundberg and Ricki Stern, exposes the private dramas of irreverent comedian and pop icon Joan Rivers.

When The World Breaks – Depression-era life and art come alive with rare film clips and personal stories from survivors of the Great Depression of the 1930s like Ray Bradbury, Jerry Stiller, Buzz Aldrin, and Phyllis Diller to take us beyond the bread lines and dust bowls into a vibrant cinematic portrait of this formative decade in American history.

Winter's Bone – 2002 Tony Cox Screenwriting Competition Award winner, Debra Granik comes back to the Nantucket Film Festival with the story of 17 year-old Ree Dolly as she sets out to track down her father, who put their house up for his bail bond and then disappeared. If she fails, Ree and her family will be turned out into the Ozark woods.

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