



For Immediate Release

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JUDD APATOW, MEG RYAN TO RECEIVE HONORS AT THE 13TH NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

**Transsiberian to Open, The Wackness to Close
the Nantucket Film Festival (June 19-22, 2008)
featuring the introduction of the Compass Rose Acting Tribute**

APRIL 2008 (New York, NY) – Surf's up as the 13th Annual Nantucket Film Festival gears up for June 2008. Things are kicking into gear today as Executive Director **Jill Burkhart** and Artistic Director **Mystelle Brabbée** announce that writer/director **Judd Apatow** will receive the "Suzanne and Bob Wright Screenwriter's Tribute Award" presented by NBC Universal. Actress **Meg Ryan** will receive the first annual Compass Rose Acting Tribute Award.

Event organizers announced that renowned screenwriter Judd Apatow will be honored with the "Suzanne and Bob Wright Screenwriter's Tribute Award", presented by NBC Universal. "It seemed natural to honor a filmmaker as diverse and unique as Judd who embodies what this award is all about," said Jill Burkhart.

Judd Apatow wrote and directed recent hits *The 40 Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* and has a hand in several anticipated comedies including co-writing the forthcoming *You Don't Mess With the Zohan* as well as producing *Pineapple Express*.

"Judd has brought an incredible new voice to screenwriting, and has completely revitalized the way comedies are made," Mystelle Brabbée added.

Past NBC Universal screenwriter tributes have honored Steve Martin, Charlie Kaufman, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Jay Presson Allen, Paul Schrader, Walter Bernstein, Ring Lardner Jr., James Schamus, Robert Benton, Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor.

To add further prestige to this year's festival is actress Meg Ryan as the introductory recipient of the Compass Rose Acting Tribute, a unique honor given to an actor that has reached a level in which they inspire writers to frequently create roles especially for them.

Mr. Apatow and Ms. Ryan will both be appearing at this year's Nantucket Film Festival. The events will also feature various colleagues and special guests who have yet to be announced.

This year's festival once again sees the Adrienne Shelly Excellence in Filmmaking Award, which gives a cash prize to a promising female writer/director at the festival in conjunction with The Adrienne Shelly Foundation. The foundation was founded by her husband, Andy Ostroff, to honor the late filmmaker and support the artistic achievements of female writers, directors, and actors through scholarships and grants. Meg Ryan will present the award to the successors of last year's winners Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg, directors of *The Devil Came on Horseback*.

Members of the foundation's advisory board include Rosanna Arquette, Hal Hartley, Ted Hope, Bennett Miller, Peter Newman, Paul Rudd, and Keri Russell.

Among other awards given at NFF® this year will be 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 Writer/Director Award.

In keeping with NFF® mission of spotlighting writers, the Festival will announce the winner of Showtime's annual **Tony Cox Award for Screenwriting** in early June. The winner will be feted at the Showtime Award Ceremony at the Festival.

Other special events include the yearly Late Night Storytelling with returning hosts **Anne Meara** and **Peter Farrelly**. Participants include five surprise guests as well as audience members. Past storytellers include Jim Carrey, Tina Fey, Mos Def, Rosie Perez, Laird Hamilton, Olympia Dukakis, Paul Rudd, Alan Cumming, and Brian Williams.

Also returning this year will be annual favorite Morning Coffee With, this year hosted by renowned film critic **Leonard Maltin**. The daily panels take place every morning and invite attendees to join filmmaker experts for a lively mix of coffee, conversation, bagels and shoptalk.

This year's staged reading partners NFF with Nantucket's Seaside Shakespeare for a reading of the Billy Wilder classic *Some Like It Hot*. Past staged readings have included the hilarious *Showstopper* by Anthony Barille & Geoffrey Nauffts including the talents of Ben Stiller and Academy Award winner Marisa Tomei. Last year's reading, *Filthy, Dirty, Twisted Lust* was directed by Steven Weber from his own screenplay. The coveted screenplay *A Confederacy Of Dunces* by Steven Soderbergh and Scott Kramer was the centerpiece staged reading of NFF 2003 and featured Will Ferrell in the starring role with Alan Cumming, Mos Def, and Rosie Perez.

The opening film of this year's festival is writer/director Brad Anderson's *Transsiberian*. The film boasts stars Woody Harrelson, Emily Mortimer, Ben Kingsley, Kate Mara, and Eduardo Noriega. The film will be accompanied by a special panel on the making of *Transsiberian* featuring writer/director **Brad Anderson**, writer **Will Conroy**, and producer **Michael Williams** as well as a special making-of documentary.

Closing the festival will be anticipated comedy *The Wackness*, written and directed by Jonathan Levine and starring Ben Kingsley, Famke Janssen, Josh Peck, Olivia Thirlby, and Mary-Kate Olsen.

The NFF was founded in 1996 to spotlight screenwriters, screenwriting and storytelling in today's cinema. The festival takes place over five days in June on the idyllic island of Nantucket, MA.

Now in its thirteenth year, NFF has become a prestigious annual event within the international film industry. Screening over 50 feature-length and short films in all genres that highlight the art of storytelling, the NFF is significant attraction that draws over ten thousand attendees, screenwriters, producers, agents and development executives each year.

Sponsors of this year's festival include NBC Universal, Showtime, CN8 and Comcast, Stella Artois, Merrill Lynch, HP, Tradewind Aviation, American Airlines, Nestle Waters, Inquirer & Mirror, and the Beachside Hotel.

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

The Films of the 2008 Nantucket Film Festival®:

Feature Films

American Teen
Baghead
Choke
The Deal
Flow: For Love of Water
Frozen River
Goodbye Baby
Of All the Things
Operation Filmmaker
Secrecy
Sleep Dealer
Stranded: I Have Come from a Plane that Crashed on the Mountains
Transsiberian
Trouble the Water
The Wackness
Wellness

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