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NEWS RELEASE

2013 1ST SCARBOROUGH FILM FESTIVAL LAUNCHES THIS JUNE, UNVEILS LINEUP

Toronto – Scarborough Film Festival will launch for the first time on June 4th, 2013. The 1st annual festival will run from June 4th through to the 9th and will hold screenings at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC) and The Fox Theatre at Queen St. E.

Sergei Petrov, Director and Founder of the Scarborough Film Festival said “We are excited to announce the launch of the newest and most exciting film festival to come to GTA in recent history, the Scarborough Film Festival. The festival is open to screen and present any types of cinematic work from across the globe, making it only 2nd of its kind in GTA. Out of 75 film festivals in Toronto it will be the first such film festival held outside of the Toronto’s downtown core”.

Films being programmed for the 1st Scarborough Film Festival are recently produced works from 2012 and 2013, never before screened in Ontario or even North America. Some of these films can be expected to have played at Tribeca, Cannes, Venice, Rome and many other film festivals. In addition, Scarborough Film Festival aims to discover hidden treasures of cinematic art, along with showcasing the works of the local Scarborough filmmakers.

Toronto residents will be delighted to see the works by established and world renowned directors as well as young and up-and-coming filmmakers: Merzak Allouache, Q, Massoud Bakhshi, Claudio Giovannesi. Several Scarborough filmmakers will present their short films: Kuru Selvarajah, Geoff Anhorn, Joanne Doughty. In total the festival will present 10 feature and 10 short films from across the globe.

The first announcement of films to premiere at the festival include an Ontario Premiere of a French-Estonian film “[A Lady in Paris](#)” directed by Ilmar Raag will kick off the 1st annual Scarborough Film Festival Opening Gala. Canadian Premieres of “[Ali Blue Eyes](#)”, “[Celluloid Man](#)”, and North America Premiere of “[Tasher Desh](#)”.

The [Festival Jury](#) is comprised of Canadian entertainment and film industry heavyweights: Sudz Sutherland – a Scarborough native and an award winning filmmaker, Karen Bruce – Director of Membership at Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television and Canadian film industry veteran, Eli Glasner – reporter and film critic with CBC, Mohit Rajhans – Writer, Director, Producer and also an OMNI TV and Flow 935 film reporter, Deanna Wong – Administrative Director of REEL CANADA, will award in-Competition films to determine Festival Grand Prix, Best Directorial Achievement, and Best Achievement in Cinematography awards. Festival audience will play a role in awarding Audience Choice Awards to their favorite feature and short films that plays at the festival.

“As a Scarborough resident of many year” said June, festivals’ co-Director “it is exciting to finally see an international type event come to this part of the city. Not only do we want to bring people and positive attention into Scarborough, but we also want to give a chance for local residents to come out and enjoy great films, right in their backyard!”

Scarborough Film Festival is a volunteer non-for-profit basis run collective with a goal is to enhance the cultural dynamic of Scarborough, bridging the gap between Central and East Toronto, through the power of international films and multicultural cinema.

ANNOUNCED PROGRAMMING LINEUP

FEATURE FILMS

Ali Blue Eyes Claudio Giovannesi, Italy

Canadian Premiere

Nader and Stefano: one is Egyptian but was born in Rome, the other is Italian and is his best friend. Nader's girlfriend Brigitte is Italian too, but that's exactly why the boy's parents oppose their love. *Ali Blue Eyes* tells of a week in the life of an adolescent boy who tries to disobey the values of his family. Precariously balanced between being Arab or Italian, Nader, courageous and in love, will have to endure solitude, the streets, cold, hunger, fear and the loss of friendship, in the attempt to regain his own identity.

A Respectable Family Massoud Bakhshi, Iran

Ontario Premiere

Arash is an Iranian academic who lives in the West. He returns to Iran to teach in Shiraz, a city far from Tehran where his mother lives. Drawn into a series of domestic and financial dramas, he faces a country that is now alien to him. Following the death of his father and the discovery of what his "respectable family" has become, he is forced to make choices.

The Repentant Merzak Allouche, Algeria/France

Ontario Premiere

Algeria region of the high flatland. As Islamist groups continue to spread terror, Rashid, a young Jihadist, leaves the mountains to return to his village. In keeping with the law "of pardon and national harmony", he has to surrender to the police and give up his weapon. He thus receives amnesty and becomes a "repentant". But the law cannot erase his crimes and for Rashid it is the beginning of a one-way journey of violence, secrets and manipulation.

A Lady in Paris Ilmar Raag, France/Estonia

Ontario Premiere

Anne leaves Estonia to come to Paris as a caretaker for Frida, an elderly Estonian lady who emigrated to France long ago. Anne soon realizes that she is not wanted. All Frida wants from life is the attention of Stéphane, her younger former lover. Stéphane, however, is desperate for Anne to stay and look after Frida, even against the old lady's will. In this conflict of strangers, Anne will find her own way...

Tasher Desh Q, India

North American Premiere

Once upon a time, there was a storyteller. In a lonely railway station, somewhere in Kolkata, he spoke to trains. He wanted to tell a story. It was not a new story. But for him, it was the only story to tell. Inside the darkness of his mind, his story unfolds a kaleidoscope of fantasy. Once upon a time, there was a prince. A victim of his destiny, he was banished with his mother to a dark and distant prison palace. Here he grows up, without hope, without a future, with his mother drowning herself in alcohol. His depression countered only by his friend, the merchant's son, who argues that it was indeed the prince's choice to remain locked in. Realizing the extent of his despair, the friend invokes the Oracle. A mysterious figure, the Oracle passes on a message of liberation. The prince realizes that he is indeed a prisoner of his mind. He takes a decision, to leave. He has a final moment with his mother, who lets him go. The prince takes hold of his destiny, and sets off on a voyage with his friend, searching for an adventure.

Celluloid Man Shivendra Dungarpur, India

Canadian Premiere

As Mr. Nair speaks, we see the history of Indian cinema unfold. What emerges is a portrait of a man so in love with cinema that even his family had to take a backseat to his obsession. Mr. Nair is not just the founder of the National Film Archive, but a living breathing museum of cinema. Even in retirement, he chooses to stay across the road from the Archive watching over his legacy. The fact that India has a cinematic heritage at all is the singlehanded achievement of this man. There will be no one like him again.

SHORT FILM LINEUP

Laughing Out Loud Daniel Clements, Canada Canadian Premiere
A woman, completely immersed in all forms of electronic social networking, is thrown into a situation where she only gets one last chance to send one last text message to one last person.

Chance Kuru Selvarajah, Scarborough, Canada Toronto Premiere
Andre is having an existential moment, a moment in which his thoughts, dreams and destiny are at a crossroads.

A Magic Lamp Valia Koabelnikova, Russia World Premiere
Two young people in the middle of the frozen Gulf of Finland, try hard to launch a Chinese lantern into the cold winter sky.

Mermaid Joanne Doughty, Scarborough, Canada
One girl's surreal experience as she discovers a mermaid beneath the surface. An underwater, experimental short film.

Student Bodies Geoff Anhorn, Scarborough, Canada World Premiere
Three college students struggle to survive in a post-apocalyptic Scarborough where small decisions have major consequences.

The Captain Nash Edgerton, USA Canadian Premiere
A man wakes up with a hangover, only to discover the consequences of his actions.

Little Miss Jihad Stephanie Law, Scarborough, Canada
The film is a dark comedy, yes, comedy, about faith, tolerance, and a young girl's imagination running away with her.

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About Scarborough Film Festival

Scarborough Film Festival is a volunteer-driven Non-For-Profit run collective led by arts and culture-professionals and aficionados. There is no organization in Scarborough or similar organization outside of Toronto downtown core that currently provides the services and emphasis that Scarborough Film Festival will provide by bridging Scarborough and downtown Toronto, bringing people and cultures together in more accessible ways. Scarborough Film Festival will be filling an important gap in alternative programming, education and entertainment, and enhancing cultural scene of East York and Scarborough through the art of film.

The Scarborough Film Festival is generously supported by local and national organizations: WJ Properties, KPMG, OMNI Television, Scarborough Arts, Centennial College, University of Toronto Scarborough, GiftCardsWild, Pattison Onestop, Full Media Center, Social Media Learning, Doris McCarthy Gallery, Scarborough Mirror and Metroland Media Group.

For additional information and/or images, contact the PR Office at 1.416.845.4362, pr@scarboroughfilmfestival.com or visit our official web site at www.scarboroughfilmfestival.com

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