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2013 BIG ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

For immediate release

KOHALA COAST, HAWAI'I, the Big Island—Now in its 8th year, the Big Island Film Festival has announced 54 Official Selections for 2013, to be screened May 23-27 at The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i and The Shops at Mauna Lani. The "talk story" film festival is a celebration of narrative films and filmmaking, with free family films, nightly double features for grown-ups with gourmet food and no-host bar, and "meet-the-stars" celebrity social events.

Notable selections include the inter-cultural romance "Chasing Shakespeare" starring Danny Glover. Continuing the legend of their ancestral Lightning Clan, a Native American family sends a talented daughter to reach for her destiny on Broadway.

"Home," with Gbenga Akinnagbe ("The Good Wife") follows a mentally-ill father on the slippery path to recovery and re-connection with his son. The film's ensemble cast includes Emmy-winning actor James McDaniel ("NYPD Blue"). The short film "Liberator" stars Lou Ferrigno as a washed-up super hero dealing with his past, and co-stars Ed Asner.

Top contenders from Hawai'i State and Island include "Strange Frame" by G.B. Hajim, Island Planet One Productions (East Hawai'i). This animated sci-fi romance won Best Feature at the Dragon Con Independent Film Festival, with the famous voices of Claudia Black, Tara Strong, Ron Glass, Tim Curry, Alan Tudyk, Michael Dorn and George Takei, to name a few. On the opposite end of the spectrum, a slice-of-life drama, "The Land of Eb," directed by Andrew Williamson, tells a touching story of Marshallese coffee workers in today's South Kona.

Another Big Island film, "Bullitt and the Mystery o the Devil's Root" is an island adventure, produced, acted, and directed by Kona filmmakers Richard Gonzalez and Rockwood, with Shawn Lathrop, Darrin "DC" Carlson, Mary Croix, and a great '68 Mustang. In "Parts of the Same Circle," the Honolulu team of Eric Nemoto and Denny Hironaga use intertwining stories and familiar local characters to create a kaleidoscopic (at times very funny) look at life and death in Hawai'i. And, from the Marshall Islands, Jack Niedenthal's "The Sound of Crickets at Night" summons a mysterious ancient deity to reunite a Bikini Atoll elder with his family.

On Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m., BIFF's Grand Opening at The Shops at Mauna Lani will include a free sampler of movies with seven short films. One of most unique, the animated film, "Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the Japanese American Incarceration Camps," shares stories from the WWII-era big band musicians and singers who made history with their music. The entire community is invited to come and welcome filmmakers to the Island.

The Official Selections for BIFF 2013 are:

A Perfect Day

Balancing Emma

Boys Are Us

Broken

Bullitt and the Mystery of the Devil's Root

Bumsicle

Caterpillar's Kimono

Chasing Shakespeare

Coffee, God and Gasoline

Fight Scene

Frame of Mind

Gabby's Wish

Good Dog

Hangdog

Hatch

Home

Homecoming

If I Were A Bell

Last Call

Liberator

Lift

Lipstick Lies

Lost Dog

Monster in Paris

Offline

Out of Focus

Paper

Parts of the Same Circle

Pervertigo

Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the Japanese American Incarceration Camps

Shoot the Moon

Sidewalk Wars

Six Letter Word

Spaghetti for Two

Stenwyken

Stigma

Strange Frame

Sway Away

The Assistant

The Equestrian

The Future

The Intruder

The Invention
The Land of Eb
The Lion's Den
The Perfection of Anna
The Regret of the Doubt
The Sound of Crickets at Night
The Spare
The Visit
Upside Down
What if
You Got This!
Your Place or Mine

A limited number of ballots will be given to audience members during each screening. Votes are tallied at the end of the festival, to determine the Audience-choice Feature and Short to be screened at Best of the Fest on Monday, May 27.

The Big Island "Talk Story" Film Festival is a celebration of independent narrative films and filmmaking, taking place May 23-27, 2013. Major sponsors include The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i and The Shops at Mauna Lani and Hawai'i Tourism Authority/Hawai'i County CPEP. For complete schedule information and tickets, visit www.BigIslandFilmFestival.com.

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