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FOURTH ANNUAL KENT FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES WORK OF CONNECTICUT FILMMAKERS

Kent, CT – The fourth annual Kent Film Festival to be held in Kent, CT, Thursday, March 26 thru Sunday, March 29, 2009. will feature work from Connecticut filmmakers in documentary, feature, and short film categories, underscoring local talent while emphasizing the growing prominence of the filmmaking industry in the state.

The inspired works of gifted Connecticut resident actors, writers, producers, and directors, as well as Connecticut locations, are featured at this year's festival in the following films:

The Curse of Micah Rood, a film short featuring **CT native actor Ron Palillo** of “**Welcome Back Kotter**” fame, tells a tale “carved from truth,” based on the blood- chilling New England legend of the late 18th century recluse apple orchard farmer whose withdrawal from society leaves him resentful, suspicious, and paranoid. Rood commits an act so heinous; the weight of his own guilt manifests itself into the form of the most bizarre haunting a man might suffer. The story takes place just outside Norwich, CT, with filming throughout the southeastern part of the state.

Freezer Burn, an independent feature film by CT resident and director Charles **Hood**, tells the sci-fi fantasy tale of a scientist who falls for his wife's 14 –year-old art student, and then uses the technology from his research to freeze himself in order to align his age with hers. His sanity hangs in the balance as he struggles to suppress his taboo attraction to the girl, his only distraction from his obsession with his work. Cast and crew are comprised of CT residents.

First-time filmmaker/director and East Hartford, CT resident Joseph Hubbard brings us **Somebody's Watchin' Me**, a clever tale about fate, destiny, and chance, that follows a young man and the uniquely musical one-hundred dollar bill that helps guide him on his path to happiness and self discovery.

Bunker Hill, starring James McDaniel (NYPD Blue) and lead actress, CT Resident and associate producer Laura Kirk, is a feature film that follows a former Wall Street executive recently released from prison to the small town of Bunker Hill, where his ex-wife and their children have begun a new life. Soon after, a terrorist attack ensues darkening the town with fear and a reawakened militant past. Directed by Kevin Willmott (CSA: Confederate States of America, The Only Good Indian), the film co-stars Saeed Jaffrey (Gandhi), Kevin Geer (American Gangster) and Blake Robbins (Oz, The Office).

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West Haven, CT resident and writer, director, producer and editor Bruce Barrett delivers the North American premiere of **The Billboard From Bethlehem**, a stunning and timely documentary about the owner of an American Billboard company who engages Israeli soldiers and Palestinian resistance fighters. The film weaves poignant interviews, historical footage, powerful music, and stories of personal transformation into a vision for the Holy Land, climaxing when 100 Israeli and Palestinian children paint a giant “peace mural” billboard that visits a mosque, synagogue, and church before finally being posted on a busy American highway.

Also in the category of documentary is Friday night’s feature, **The Gramercy Stories** by CT’s Joyce Chopra, a local resident, producer and director of a broad range of award- winning films for Sundance, A&E, as well as numerous documentaries including one in permanent collection at the Museum of Modern Art. Gramercy Stories is a touching account which documents the lives of teenage boys growing up gay and transsexual, who after years of abuse and rejection find a home at the Gramercy Residence, founded by the Green Chimneys Organization.

Third-year Kent Film Festival “veteran” and CT weekend resident Zachary Borst offers **Sea Mammals and Reptiles**, a comedic short about an offbeat couple in for a string of surprises as they try to come to terms with their juvenile love on a drafty day in Hickory, North Carolina.

Crushing Pennies, a psychological short film by Glastonbury, CT filmmaker and director Ryan Casey, is about a married couple who begin to lead a life of shared delusions resulting from the imagines suitors they created as a means to vent the frustrations of their claustrophobic marriage. The couple finally visits a marriage counselor, who persuades them to solve their problem in a very interesting way.

“Part of the basic mission of the Kent Film Festival is to promote the works of filmmakers from our area,” says Galterio, “and to give them a forum in which to develop their careers. We are proud to say that filmmaking is truly making its mark in Connecticut.”

The Kent Film Festival is a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to the development of film artists of independent spirit and uncommon vision.

For ticketing and festival information, please visit kentfilmfestival.org.

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