



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMEN IN FILM INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTED AT  
FOURTH ANNUAL KENT FILM FESTIVAL**

The fourth annual Kent Film Festival, held this year from Thursday, March 26 thru Sunday, March 29, 2009, in Kent, CT, proudly unveils local, national, and international films of several categories made by women in the film industry, an ever-growing trend in the world of independent film.

While recent years have seen the exodus of women executives, producers and directors from the major film studio rosters, Kent Film Festival Co-Founder and Director Frank Galterio has noticed a “greater presence, progressively, of film work from women in all facets of independent filmmaking over the four years he has been a festival director.”

Prominent in this year’s schedule are excellent submissions from female writers, producers, and directors in the category of documentary:

**Gramercy Stories** by **Joyce Chopra**, is a stirring narrative following the tenuous lives of teenage boys growing up gay and transsexual, who after years of abuse and neglect, finally find home at the Gramercy Residence, founded by **The Green Chimneys Program**.

Harry Warner’s granddaughter **Cass Warner** delivers **The Brothers Warner**, an intimate portrait of the four young pioneers who founded and ran **Warner Brothers Studios** for fifty years.

**The World Was Ours**, directed by **Mira VanDoren**, celebrates Jewish life in Vilna as it was before World War II. Narrated by award-winning actor **Mandy Patinkin**, the film evokes the times via a large collection of video, diary excerpt, archival music, and interviews.

**On Paper Wings**, from producer **Ilana Sol**, documents the story of the Japanese balloon bombs which took the lives of the only people killed on the continental U.S. during WWII, and the decision to fold one thousand paper cranes thereafter as gesture to reunite the Japanese and American Civilians affected.

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In addition, international filmmakers **Alice Caronna** of the United Kingdom and **Tiphaine Siovel** of France offer work in short film category and experimental feature, respectively.

**Caronna's into the Light** tells the story of faith and fantasy after great personal loss, and how a family struggles to mitigate tragedy and resolution.

**Echos**, from **Siovel**, explores the awakening relationship between a woman and Nature.

Other great work from women filmmakers amongst this year's screenings are selections rounding out the short film category:

Short film dramedy **Bean**, from writer/director **Giovanna Federico**, is a sensitive look at a fifteen year old girl vying for her mother's attention amid a string of 'surrogate' fathers and boyfriends, and the action she takes to regain that needed attention.

**Wilderness**, written and directed by **Amy Neswald**, follows the comedic-dramatic spiritual journey of lost-in-life forty year old character Robert Kenny who, trailed by an ambivalent angel, may be too reticent and stuck in his ways to recognize the soul mate he meets.

Writer/director **Amber Beard's Growing Up Vegas**, is a coming-of-age, personal tale of an isolated and withdrawn tomboy who is taken under wing by a loveable washed-up Elvis impersonator in the casino where her single mother works as a cocktail waitress.

**Mirror Mirror**, a magical realism exploration, written and directed by **Valerie Champagne**, tells of ten year-old Tanya who tries to save her dying father by bargaining with a demon in her bathroom mirror.

"We love to showcase work from women filmmakers, and we encourage women to continue to add their perspective to all aspects of the independent film industry," says Galterio, whose festival has also given educational and interactive workshops, panels, and Q&A sessions from women filmmakers, to great accolades.

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](http://kentfilmfestival.org).