



For Immediate Release
October 15, 2013

Contact: Greg Sorvig
Phone: 317.402.5876
Email: gsorvig@trulymovingpictures.org

HEARTLAND FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF THURSDAY

Academy Award®-qualifying festival features 134 independent films over 10 days with special event appearances by Vanessa Hudgens and Academy Award® winner Geoffrey Rush

(INDIANAPOLIS) – The Heartland Film Festival (Oct. 17-26) kicks off its 22nd annual showcase of independent, international, enlightening film on Thursday with its Opening Night Event at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. In total, the Festival includes 134 independent films from 44 countries and will host over 100 filmmakers from around the world.

As an Academy Awards®-qualifying festival within the Short Films category, Heartland is widely respected in the independent film community. Offering 282 film screenings, Q&A sessions with filmmakers, workshops and special events, Heartland gives you the opportunity to see films from around the world and meet the filmmakers who craft them.

BASIC SCHEDULE OUTLINE

- **Film screenings**
 - AMC Castleton Square 14 – Friday, Oct. 18 - Saturday, Oct. 26
 - AMC Traders Point 12 – Saturday, Oct. 19 - Saturday, Oct. 26
 - The Theater at the Wheeler Arts Community (Fountain Square) – Wednesday, Oct. 23 - Saturday, Oct. 26
- **Thursday, Oct. 17 – First Day of the Festival**
 - Opening Night Event at the Indianapolis Museum of Art
 - World premiere of “Gimme Shelter” starring Vanessa Hudgens
- **Friday, Oct. 18 – First Day of Screenings at AMC Castleton Square**
 - Heartland will exclusively show all 20 Festival Award-winning films at AMC Castleton Square 14. Filmmakers from **every film** will be in attendance to meet moviegoers and talk with the media.
- **Saturday, Oct. 19 – Awards Ceremony**
 - **Awards Ceremony at the Indiana Repertory Theatre – 8 p.m.**
 - Black tie optional event where Heartland reveals all the Grand Prize winners and awards more than \$115k in prize money

- **Vanessa Hudgens** will receive the Pioneering Spirit: Rising Star Award.
- Presenters include **Mayor Greg Ballard**, **Tamika Catchings** of the Indiana Fever, **Scott Hoke** of WFYI and more
- **Sunday, Oct. 20 – Filmmakers Brunch (SOLD OUT)**
 - **Filmmakers’ Brunch event at Omni Severin Hotel – 11:30 a.m.**
 - Intimate opportunity to share a meal and partake in roundtable filmmaker Q&A
- **Monday, Oct. 21 – Friday, Oct. 25**
 - **Animation Workshop - *Behind-the-scenes with DreamWorks Animation* – 6 p.m. at AMC Castleton Square 14**
- **Saturday, Oct. 26 – Closing Night Event**
 - **Closing Night Event at the Indianapolis Museum of Art**
 - Special presentation of “The Book Thief” starring Geoffrey Rush
 - **Closing Night Party at the Jazz Kitchen**

EXPANDED SCHEDULE OUTLINE & INFORMATION

Opening Night Event – World Premiere of “Gimme Shelter” (Roadside Attractions)

Centering on homeless, pregnant teenager Agnes "Apple" Bailey (Vanessa Hudgens), the film explores her struggle for survival and the hope of redemption through the harsh realities of life on the streets.

- *Thursday, Oct. 17 – Screenings at 4 p.m. (tickets \$25) and 7:30 p.m. (tickets \$50)*
- *The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art with reception to follow at Deer Zink Pavilion (7:30 p.m. screening only, included in ticket price)*
- ***Talent to appear on red carpet beginning at 6:15 p.m. (press call time 5:30 p.m.)***
- *Q&A to follow each screening with cast and filmmakers*

Talent scheduled to attend (subject to change):

- **Vanessa Hudgens, actor**
- **Ronald Krauss, director, writer, producer**
- **Kathleen DiFiore, inspiration behind the film**
- Joshua Amir, co-producer
- Rachel M. Amberson, actor
- Darlisha F. Dozier, actor and inspiration
- Wanda Santos, actor and inspiration

Closing Night Event - Special Presentation of “The Book Thief” (20th Century Fox)

Based on the beloved bestselling book, “The Book Thief” tells the inspirational story of a spirited and courageous young girl who transforms the lives of everyone around her when she is sent to live with a foster family in World War II Germany.

- *Saturday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. - The Toby, Indianapolis Museum of Art – SOLD OUT*
- **Talent to appear on red carpet beginning at 6 p.m. (press call time 5:15 p.m.)**
- *Closing Night Party to follow at The Jazz Kitchen – tickets \$20*
- *Q&A to follow with cast and filmmakers.*

Talent scheduled to attend (subject to change):

- **Actor Geoffrey Rush** (Academy Award® winner)
 - o Will receive the Heartland Pioneering Spirit Award
- Actor Sophie Nélisse
 - o Will receive the Heartland Pioneering Spirit: Rising Star Award
- Director Brian Percival
 - o Will receive the Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award for the film

The Festival Closing Night Event will include the presentation of select awards, including the Best U.S. Premiere Awards and the Audience Choice Awards.

Animation Workshop - Behind-the-scenes with DreamWorks Animation

- *Monday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. – AMC Castleton Square 14 – Free, but ticketed (advance tickets sold out, walk-up tickets may be available)*

Rob Minkoff has been one of the most innovative artists in animation, from creating character design for “The Little Mermaid” to directing “The Lion King” and “Stuart Little.” Now he is hard at work directing DreamWorks Animation's upcoming feature film “Mr. Peabody & Sherman,” based on the beloved characters from “The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show.” Minkoff will take the audience through the creative process behind a major animated feature, showing clips from “Mr. Peabody & Sherman” (to be released in theaters March 7, 2014) and answer questions from the audience.

Awards Ceremony to Honor Independent Filmmakers, Bestow Award to Vanessa Hudgens

- *Saturday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m. – Indiana Repertory Theatre – tickets \$100, black tie optional*
- *Afterglow Party to follow ceremony in Indiana Repertory Theatre lobby*

This is the night to celebrate the excellence of independent film as we gather to honor the Festival's award-winning filmmakers. Be the first to know the winners of Heartland's top prizes, which include:

- The \$50,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature
- The \$50,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature
- The \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Short
- The \$5,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Short
- The \$2,000 prizes for the Jimmy Stewart Memorial Awards
- The \$2,500 Grand Prize Winner of the High School Film Competition

The Festival will honor actor **Vanessa Hudgens** with the Heartland Pioneering Spirit: Rising Star Award at the ceremony. Immediately following the event is the Afterglow Party, a unique opportunity for one-on-one conversation with filmmakers from around the world. The evening includes hors d'oeuvres and light jazz by Sarah Scharbrough.

Filmmakers' Brunch to Offer Intimate Insight with Filmmakers

- *Sunday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. – The Omni Severin Hotel (Exclusive Hotel of the Heartland Film Festival) – SOLD OUT*

Discover the inspiration behind some of your favorite Heartland films by joining the filmmakers for an informal brunch. Don't miss this unique opportunity to speak one-on-one with fascinating storytellers to hear what inspires them to work in this industry and the challenges they face when creating moving films.

Festival to Screen 20 Festival Award winners alongside 96 Official Selections, 12 High School Film Competition Films and 4 Special Presentations

Festival Award winners, all eligible for the Grand Prize within their respective category, include:

Narrative Feature (\$50,000 Grand Prize)

- "The Forgotten Kingdom"
- "Hide Your Smiling Faces"
- "Life Inside Out"
- "This is Where We Live"
- "When a Wolf Falls in Love with a Sheep"

Documentary Features (\$50,000 Grand Prize)

- "Barzan"
- "Blood Brother"
- "The Genius of Marian"
- "Life According to Sam"
- "The Network"

Narrative Short (\$5,000 Grand Prize)

- "The Amber Amulet"
- "Liquidation"
- "Rhino Full Throttle"
- "Springtime"
- "The Sweatshop"

Documentary Short (\$5,000 Grand Prize)

- "Atomic Dream"
- "The Circle"
- "Herd in Iceland"
- "How the Light Gets In"
- "Wrinkles of the City – La Havana"

Special presentations include:

- "The Crash Reel"
- "Gideon's Army"
- "Linsanity"
- "Valentine Road"

World premiere titles include, but are not limited to:

- "23 Blast"
- "The Christmas Candle"
- "Life Inside Out"
- "Little Hope Was Arson"
- "No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie"

Visit HeartlandFilmFestival.org for press materials and additional information. To reserve space at either red carpet event please contact Greg Sorvig at (317) 402-5876 or gsorvig@trulymovingpictures.org.

#

About Heartland Truly Moving Pictures

Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a nonprofit arts organization, seeks to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Its flagship event, the Heartland Film Festival®, launched in 1991 and runs each October in Indianapolis, screening independent films from around the world. Each year, the Festival awards more than \$125,000 in cash prizes and presents its Festival Awards to the top-judged submissions. Heartland has awarded more than \$2.5 million to support filmmakers during the last 20 years. The organization's Truly Moving Picture Award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission. By bestowing this award seal to honored films, the award allows studios and distributors to inform audiences of a film's transformative power and appeal. Heartland is also dedicated to cultivating youth, and thus created the Heartland Institute to provide innovative educational and outreach programs that enrich the minds and lives of youth and aspiring filmmakers. Heartland shares inspiring films year-round in the community through the Heartland Roadshow, bringing meaningful films across Indiana. For more information, visit TrulyMovingPictures.org.