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RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL DEBUTS SHORT SHORT STORY FILM FESTIVAL *One-Night Event To Feature Over Thirty Films That Tell A Story In Five Minutes Or Less.*

PROVIDENCE, RI – A unique one-night event is coming this November 17th to Providence, Rhode Island. Co-presented by the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) and MergingArts Productions, the first annual ***Short Short Story Film Festival*** will make its debut at the Perishable Theater at 95 Empire Street, in downtown Providence. The festival takes place at 8:00pm and admission is \$10.00 at the door. This event is open to the public.

The one-night festival will feature films of five minutes or less in length, all of which tell a story. Toni Pennacchia, Director of MergingArts Productions, says “Our idea is to present a wide variety of themes and moods within the typical time that someone would spend at a Hollywood movie. Most short film festivals allow for films of 10, 15, or more minutes in length. We wanted to keep things ‘short and sweet’ so to speak.”

She continues, “I’ve noticed reviewing submissions for films less than five minutes that many are trailers for upcoming features, music videos, or experimental non-narrative pieces. I wanted to keep the focus on story – films with a beginning, middle, and end. It’s a greater challenge for the filmmaker, but I feel it’s more rewarding to the audience in the end.”

The festival will include more than thirty films culled from the more than two thousand films that were submitted to the 2007 RIIFF held this past August. Toni Pennacchia says “This is a great way to give films a second chance. This new festival will feature mostly films from the main RIIFF festival in August that people might have missed. Even better, it will showcase some films that were “near misses” in the main selection process – we can only accept the top 10-15 percent for the main festival, so this is a great way to give those films that almost made it a chance to be seen.” Toni Pennacchia adds, “The filmmakers seem to really appreciate the additional exposure and the personal touch a smaller festival allows for.”

Films to be screened run the gamut of styles, including *Exact Change Only*, an animated comedy about tollbooth frustration, *Wood Diary*, a touching story about a man with a wooden leg, and *Jack The Ripper*, a horror mini-biography. Films from as far away as Australia and Europe will be shown, as well as films from a few New England filmmakers including Mike Brady's *The Collector*, from Providence, RI.

The film festival will include a short after-party and awards ceremony, with some unusual variations on the typical cinematography or screenplay awards. Awards will include "Imagination Award" for artistic vision, "Soul of Wit Award" for screenplay dialog, "Thousand Words Award" for films without dialog, and "Heartstrings Award" for films with a sentimental or romantic theme. Additionally, audience in attendance will determine the recipient of the "Audience Choice Award".

RIIFF has received national and international recognition and is a qualifying festival with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences ("the Oscars"™). The largest film festival in New England, it includes films from many genres, as well as gala events and educational workshops. MergingArts Productions is an organization dedicated to promoting music, visual arts, and technology, especially the integration of the three. Two Sisters' Productions, Inc., a RI filmmaking production company, is a proud sponsor of this event.

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For more information on the festival, contact Toni Pennacchia, Director of MergingArts Productions at mergingarts@cox.net, or visit <http://www.mergingarts.com> or <http://www.rifilmfest.org>