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2009 NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES FULL LINEUP

**'Cold Souls' is Opening Night Film, 'Year One' Closing Night Film
14th Annual Festival Runs June 18-21**

APRIL 2009 (New York, NY) – Organizers for the Nantucket Film Festival gear up for the annual beachside outing for cinephiles as Executive Director **Colin Stanfield** and Artistic Director **Mystelle Brabbée** announce the film lineup for the 14th annual festival. Due to its growing popularity, the festival has added another day and will be running Thursday, June 18 through Sunday, June 21. Passes for the festival will be available starting Thursday, April 23, at the festival's website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org).

"While this year's festival will be keeping traditions such as the Screenwriters Tribute, Late Night Storytelling, and Morning Coffee, we're also going to be bringing in some exciting new things as well," said Mr. Stanfield, a festival veteran who is serving his first year as Executive Director.

The opening film of this year's festival is writer/director Sophie Barthes' *Cold Souls*, which will be released by Samuel Goldwyn Films on August 7. Strikingly original, highly entertaining, and entirely engrossing, *Cold Souls* stars Academy Award nominee and recent Golden Globe winner Paul Giamatti, and gifted ensemble cast including David Strathairn, Dina Korzun, Katheryn Winnick, Lauren Ambrose, and Emily Watson. Closing the festival will be highly anticipated comedy *Year One*, directed by Harold Ramis and starring Jack Black, Michael Cera, David Cross, Oliver Platt, Paul Rudd, and Olivia Wilde. *Year One* also has a surprise connection to the festival which will be announced in May.

"With this year's program, we worked toward having a film lineup that has a unique relation to the island," Ms. Brabbée added. "Our Centerpiece Film *The Cove* for example, hits close to Nantucket because of its relationship with various seaside industries. *Cold Souls* is a former winner of the Tony Cox Screenwriting Award, and it was at the festival that Paul Giamatti was first introduced to the script."

This year's festival sees the return of the Adrienne Shelly Excellence in Filmmaking Award, which recognizes a promising female writer/director at the festival in conjunction with The Adrienne Shelly Foundation, and will also include her last produced script *Serious Moonlight* in the festival. "*Serious Moonlight* is Adrienne's deliciously dark comedy follow up to her smash success *Waitress*, and I'm sure she'd be thrilled to have it included in the Nantucket Film Festival where she, like so many in the New York film community, enjoyed participating," said **Andy Ostroy**, who established The Adrienne Shelly Foundation to honor the late filmmaker and support the artistic achievements of

female writers, directors, and actors through scholarships and grants. Previous recipients include Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg, directors of *The Devil Came on Horseback*, and Nanette Burstein, director of *American Teen*. Members of the Foundation's advisory board include Rosanna Arquette, Hal Hartley, Ted Hope, Bennett Miller, Peter Newman, Paul Rudd, and Keri Russell.

NFF will also be teaming with Facing History and Ourselves, an organization dedicated to fostering thoughtful dialogue about issues of tolerance and civic responsibility, to present a special screening and discussion of *The Reckoning*. "It seems especially fitting that Facing History is joining with the Nantucket Film Festival to share this story with others," said Facing History's Chief Program Officer **Marc Skvirsky**. "After the festival, Facing History is thrilled to bring the film to teachers and students all over the world through professional development work emphasizing the importance of local and global civic engagement."

Other awards given at NFF this year will include The Audience Awards for Best Feature and Best Short Film, SHOWTIME'S TONY COX Awards for Best Screenwriting in a Feature Film and in a Short Film, the Teen View on NFF Award, the Best Storytelling in a Documentary Film Award, and the Writer/Director Award. In keeping with NFF's mission spotlighting writers, the Festival will announce the winner of Showtime's annual **Tony Cox Award for Screenwriting** in early June. The winner will be feted at the Showtime Award Ceremony at the Festival.

Other NFF special events include the uproarious and unpredictable Late Night Storytelling, with returning hosts **Anne Meara** and **Peter Farrelly** (co-director of the upcoming film *The Three Stooges*). Participants will include five surprise guests as well as audience members. Past storytellers include Jim Carrey, Tina Fey, Mos Def, Rosie Perez, Laird Hamilton, Olympia Dukakis, Paul Rudd, Alan Cumming, and Brian Williams.

Also returning this year will be annual fan favorite event Morning Coffee, with host **Jace Alexander**. Every morning, these panels offer attendees an intimate mix of coffee, conversation, bagels and shoptalk with some of their favorite filmmakers.

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded in 1996 to spotlight screenwriters, screenwriting and storytelling in today's cinema. **Livia Bloom**, the newest addition to the Nantucket Film Festival's programming team, notes, "With fifteen of our features made by writer/directors, the 2009 Official Selection shows that the voice of the screenwriter in cinema is stronger than ever." The festival takes place over five days in June on the idyllic island of Nantucket, MA.

Now in its fourteenth year, NFF has become a prestigious annual event within the international film industry. Screening feature-length and short films in all genres that highlight the art of storytelling, NFF is significant attraction that draws over ten thousand attendees, screenwriters, producers, agents and development executives each year.

Sponsors of this year's festival include Showtime, Stella Artois, HP, American Airlines, Cape Air, IndiePay, Don Allen Ford, Hertz, Yellow Dog, Inquirer & Mirror, Brand Content, and the Beachside Hotel.

Additional films, events and attendees to be announced soon.

For more information please visit our website at www.nantucketfilmfestival.org.

Nantucket Film Festival 2009 Official Selection:

Feature Films

Amreeka - Cherien Dabis's award-winning, extraordinary first feature, loosely based on her family's experiences, brings humor to the story of a Palestinian mother and son's bittersweet adjustment to life in Amreeka (or America).

Beeswax - Talented director Andrew Bujalski makes a splash in the underground film world with this beautiful, naturalistic new film about the romantic and business entanglements of a pair of lively and lovely twin sisters in Austin, Texas.

The Burning Plain - Charlize Theron and Kim Basinger star in the directorial debut of screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga (*Amores Perros*, *Babel*, *The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*), in which a passionate affair between a married Texan woman and a married Mexican man has a surprising effect on his son and her teenage daughter.

City of Borders - Hated by Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike, five people risk everything rather than deny their sexual identities in Yun Suh's humorous and courageous documentary about the tiny, brave gay community in Jerusalem.

Cold Souls - In the midst of an existential crisis, a famous American actor (Paul Giamatti playing himself) stumbles upon Soul Storage, a private lab offering New Yorkers a relief from the burden of their souls.

The Cove - In this riveting documentary, a fearless, ambitious crew of international adventurers, led by National Geographic photographer Louie Psihoyos, employ military spy techniques to record a horrific secret dolphin slaughter in Taiji, Japan.

The Exploding Girl - College student Ivy (Zoe Kazan) spends a sunny, lazy Brooklyn summer with her mom (Maryann Urbano) and old buddy Al (Mark Rendall) in Bradley Rust Gray's gorgeously photographed, poetic reverie on the hazy boundary between friendship and love.

Facing Ali - Three-time World Heavyweight Champion Muhammad Ali defeated nearly every top fighter of the golden age of boxing, and symbolized the sport for generations of fans. Now, ten of his acclaimed rivals pay him tribute in Pete McCormack's enthralling new documentary.

Humpday - In Lynn Shelton's riotous film, Ben and Anna (Mark Duplass and Alycia Delmore) find their domestic routine—and their trust in each other—abruptly shaken when a wild pal dares Ben to enter Seattle's annual porn contest, Humpfest, with him.

The Hurt Locker - Defusing bombs in Iraq, Sergeant Will James (Jeremy Renner) grows increasingly addicted to danger in this suspenseful action thriller from director Kathryn Bigelow (*Strange Days*, *Point Break*).

The Maid - The ornery maid of a wealthy Chilean household (played by the exceptional Catalina Saavedra) dispatches any threat of competition with passive-aggressive ingenuity in this hilarious, perceptive, and acclaimed new film by Sebastián Silva.

The Messenger - In the gripping directorial debut of acclaimed screenwriter Oren Moverman (*I'm Not There*), a young soldier returns from Iraq to his toughest assignment yet: joining Tony (Woody Harrelson) in notifying families—from Samantha Morton to Steve Buscemi—that their loved ones have died in the line of fire.

Racing Dreams - Kids of all ages will flip for Marshall Curry's rousing documentary about three competitive racers competing in the World Karting Association's National Pavement Series. Clocking speeds up to 70 mph, Brandon (age 13), Annabeth (age 12), and Joshua (age 12) chase the championship title, aspiring to careers as death-defying NASCAR drivers.

The Reckoning - Pamela Yates documents dynamic International Criminal Court prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo during three years and across four continents as he issued arrest warrants for Resistance Army leaders in Uganda, put Congolese warlords on trial, and charged Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir with genocide in Darfur.

Serious Moonlight - High-powered lawyer Louise (Meg Ryan) resorts to desperate measures when her husband Ian (Timothy Hutton) decides to leave: she takes him hostage in this surprising comedy, directed by Cheryl Hines from one of the last script by Adrienne Shelly (*Waitress*).

Still Walking - This brilliant, closely observed new film from auteur Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Nobody Knows*), which unfolds over a single day as a dysfunctional Japanese family reunites on the fifteenth anniversary of their son's death, was voted Best Film by critics at the Toronto Film Festival,

The Way We Get By - In a small Maine airport, strength and inspiration are given and received in equal measure as group of senior citizens use hugs and handshakes to play a role in the Iraq war. Since 2003, nearly 1 million American soldiers and marines have been greeted by seniors like Bill Knight, Joan Gaudet, and Jerry Mundy, who share their candid, wrenching stories with Joan's son, filmmaker Aron Gaudet.

Year One - Jack Black and Michael Cera star as lazy primitives on a hilarious journey in this riotous, highly anticipated film from producer Judd Apatow (*Knocked Up*, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*) and legendary writer/director Harold Ramis (*Ghostbusters*, *Groundhog Day*, *Meatballs*, *Caddyshack*).

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