



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL  
ANNOUNCES AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS FOR NARRATIVE,  
DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILMS**

**OTHER PEOPLE, LIFE, ANIMATED AND JOE'S VIOLIN TAKE TOP PRIZES**

**SHOWTIME TONY COX SCREENPLAY COMPETITION WINNERS INCLUDE TEL AVIV ON  
FIRE, CLEO & THE GODMOTHER**

**Nantucket, MA (June 26, 2015)** – The 21st annual Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) today announced the audience winners for this year's festival. The Molly Shannon-starring comedic drama, **OTHER PEOPLE** written and directed by Chris Kelly is awarded Best Narrative Feature and **CAPTAIN FANTASTIC** headlined by Viggo Mortensen, written and directed by Matt Ross is the runner up. Opening Night Film **LIFE, ANIMATED** directed by Roger Ross Williams is the Best Documentary Feature winner and the controversial exposé **TICKLED** directed by David Farrier and Dylan Reeve awarded the runner up. The Kahane Cooperman directed short film **JOE'S VIOLIN**, about a Holocaust survivor's musical legacy is awarded Best Short film and environmentally-focused **THE LAST BAY SCALLOP?** directed by John Stanton is the runner up.

NFF also announces the winners of the prestigious Showtime Tony Cox Screenplay Competition, which recognizes the best unproduced screenplays and television pilots by emerging writers. Sameh Zoabi's and Dan Kleinman's **TEL AVIV ON FIRE** received the top prize as the winner of the Feature Screenplay Competition. The Episodic Screenplay nods went to Julia Fontana for **CLEO** and to Wyndham Lewis for **THE GODMOTHER**.

Zoabi and Dan Kleinman's **TEL AVIV ON FIRE** tells the story of Salam, an inexperienced young Palestinian man who becomes a writer on a popular soap opera and soon finds himself in the middle of intrigue on and off set. Zoabi receives \$5000 cash prize and one of only four coveted spots to participate in partner organization the Screenwriters Colony month-long writing retreat in October.

NFF recognizes the remarkable renaissance of the small screen through two Episodic Screenplay Competitions, one for Hour-Long Pilots and the other for Half-Hour Pilots. Both winners receive a \$1000 cash prize, as well as a consultation with a Showtime executive. The Half-Hour winner also received one of only four slots in the new Screenwriters Colony: Episodic Comedy, a two-week immersive writing and mentorship program on Nantucket earlier this month.

The Hour-Long Episodic Screenplay winner is **CLEO** by Julia Fontana, an exploration of Cleopatra's early years, following the transformation of a girl never groomed to rule into the woman who commanded armies and conquered emperors.

The Half-Hour Episodic Screenplay winner is **THE GODMOTHER** by Wyndham Lewis, in which CeeCee, a millennial hipster, is forced to fulfill her godmotherly duties by parenting two ultra-privileged Connecticut kids when her hedge-fund owner brother and sister-in-law are indicted by the feds.

The Episodic Screenplay Competition jury was comprised of Gary Cosay, Co-Founder, UTA, Kate Erbland, Film Editor, *Indiewire*, and Chris Kelly, Writer/Director of *OTHER PEOPLE* & Supervising Writer, *SNL*.

The Short Screenplay Competition winner is **WAYLAID** by Michael Koehler. Stranded at a remote train station in southern France with her boyfriend, a young woman is challenged by a fellow waylaid traveler and kindred spirit. Koehler receives a \$500 cash prize.

The Feature & Shorts Screenplay Competition jury was comprised of Jeremy Gerard, Media and Culture Writer (various outlets including *Deadline*, *New York Times*), filmmaker Eugene Jarecki (*REAGAN, THE HOUSE I LIVE IN, WHY WE FIGHT*) and filmmaker Stella Meghie (*JEAN OF THE JONESES*).

The Festival's Teen View Jury Award, selected by a group of Nantucket junior high school students, went to **THE BATHTUB**, written and directed by Tim Ellrich; written by Dominik Huber. Entravision, a leading media company that reaches and engages Hispanics in the US and the border of Mexico, was a supporter of the Teen View Program.

"We're tremendously proud of this year's festival, from the engaging array of films and signature programs to our highly-supportive audiences who spent five days enjoying our lineup and the glorious Nantucket sunshine," said Mystelle Brabbee, Executive Director of the Nantucket Film Festival and Basil Tsiokos, Program Director of the Nantucket Film Festival. "We were thrilled to host filmmakers and screenwriters from around the world who provided thought-provoking content and conversation, and are grateful to our juries and audiences for recognizing this year's talented award-winners."

Earlier this weekend, the winner of the ninth annual **Adrienne Shelly Foundation Excellence in Filmmaking Award** was announced, which bestows a \$5,000 cash prize to a female filmmaker in honor of the late director. The award went to director Irene Taylor Brodsky for her HBO documentary, **BEWARE THE SLENDERMAN**.

Comedian and writer Seth Meyers, host of the NBC late-night talk show *Late Night with Seth Meyers* hosted the Screenwriters Tribute Awards from the Siasconset Casino on Saturday, June 25. Academy Award®-winning screenwriter and director Oliver Stone accepted the Screenwriting Tribute Award, given to him by two-time Academy Award®-nominated director Bennett Miller.

Academy Award®-nominated producer/director Heidi Ewing, accepted the A&E Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling Award on behalf of herself & Rachel Grady, presented to her by Norman Lear via video, while the New Voices in Screenwriting was presented to Sian Heder by Zachary Quinto. Ewing & Grady's film *NORMAN LEAR: JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF YOU* screened as the festival's Centerpiece Film and Heder's *TALLULAH* as a Spotlight Film. Sian developed the film's script at the Screenwriters Colony, NFF's program partner.

Molly Shannon was presented the Compass Rose Acting Award, recognizing an actor who has inspired great storytelling in film on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> by Michael Ian Black. Shannon's film *OTHER PEOPLE*, directed and written by Christopher Kelly screened a Spotlight Film at the festival.

Special guests who attended NFF 2015 included Festival co-founders Jill & Jonathan Burkhart, Oliver Stone, Seth Meyers, Molly Shannon, Michael Ian Black, Bennett Miller, Eugene Jarecki, Zachary Quinto, Sian Heder, Mike Birbiglia, Ophira Eisenberg, Chris Kelly, Tom Scott, EPIX CEO & President Mark Greenberg, A+E Networks CEO Nancy Dubuc, Bailee Madison, Sarah Megan Thomas, Barbara Kopple, Stephen Schwartz, Raul Esparza and many more.

The Nantucket Film Festival is supported by Showtime, The White Elephant Nantucket Island Resorts as Major Sponsors; A&E IndieFilms, Chloe Wine Collection, EPIX, Delta and Brand Content as Signature Sponsors; Travel & Leisure, Bulleit Bourbon, Ketel One Vodka, Entravision, Cape Air/Nantucket Airlines, Stella Artois, and Harbourview Nantucket as Producing Sponsors; and Citi, The Beachside at Nantucket, Maui Jim, Tribeca Shortlist, The Inquirer & Mirror, CineSend, SAGIndie, Writers Guild of America East, The Summer House, Nantucket Today and Nantucket Bank as Contributing Sponsors.

#### **ABOUT THE NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL**

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded by brother and sister team Jonathan and Jill Burkhart in 1996 to promote the cultural awareness and appreciation of the fine art of screenwriting in the world of cinema. These days, NFF has become one of the premier destination film festivals in the world. Visitors come from all over to experience the preview screenings, unique signature programs, and stand out hospitality on a magical island rich with history, a friendly atmosphere, and beautiful sandy beaches. In addition to screening over 75 films across six days, NFF presents the Screenwriters Tribute, In Their Shoes... hosted by Chris Matthews, Late Night Storytelling, and our daily Morning Coffee With... series.

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