

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Richmond International Film Festival Announces the 2014 Represented Countries, Featured Shorts and Spotlight Events

Richmond, VA – Feb. 6, 2014 -- The Richmond International Film Festival (RIFF), held at the Byrd Theater Feb 27-Mar 2 announces this year's countries, film spotlights, and the 2014 featured special events.

At the end of the month, more than sixty five films will screen at RIFF ranging from emerging artists to Oscar award winning filmmakers, many of whom will be coming to RVA for the Richmond premiere of their film. This year's countries include films from RUSSIA; UNITED STATES; CHINA/HONG KONG; THE NETHERLANDS; SINGAPORE; GERMANY; MEXICO; SPAIN; MOROCCO; CANADA; UNITED KINGDOM; AUSTRIA; AUSTRALIA; ITALY; AZERBAIJAN; JAPAN; ARGENTINA; FRANCE; and TAIWAN.

Feature and short films will be screened throughout the four day event at the Byrd Theatre and the Virginia Historical Society including narrative, experimental, animation, and documentary genres. A few spotlights include *TAINTED LOVE* starring Orlando Jones and Deanna Russo, a live-action graphic novel animation written and produced by Orlando Jones (star of *SLEEPY HOLLOW*); two in-house RIFF productions, *SLEEP TO DREAM*, a short film produced in conjunction with RIFF's annual collaborative production award directed by Alonzo Crawford and written by Kathryn Easton and Heather Waters. The film is inspired by the story of PC Amin, Co-founder of Virginia's Shamin Hotels. The film chronicles Amin's journey to the states and the inspiring legacy of their growing hotel enterprise, which is now said to be one of the most successful hotel enterprises in the state of Virginia. The second in-house RIFF film production, *THE PEOPLE V GOD*, is an in-house short psychological film written by this year's Creative World Awards Grand Prize Winner, Paul Undari and directed by RIFF Founder, Heather Waters, which features many of Virginia's talented cast and crew members.

Also screening is *UNBELIVABLE IS BELIEVABLE HERE*, the world premiere of a feature documentary that chronicles the VCU Rams' recent unprecedented journey to the Final Four featuring Shakka Smart and many of the VCU Rams' players; *SATURNALIA*, a spotlight feature film based on shocking true events of a homeless woman who manages to sneak in and live undetected in the house of a recently retired man after the sudden death of his wife, starring Virginia Dutton and Renato Biribin; *HUMANEXUS*, and a short reflection film directed by VCU School of the Arts professor, Ying-Fang Shen and a collaborative effort from various colleagues at other universities. More film sneak peeks can be seen via the RIFF website.

Events at this year's festival include Community Outreach Day on Thursday, Feb 27 starting at 11am; the RIFF/James Rivers Writers Panel on Thursday, Feb 27 at 6:30pm at the Camel; a Friday night Mixer at the Camel; a Saturday morning Community Bike Ride Event led by female pro cyclist Kathryn Bertine following the screening of her film, *HALF THE ROAD* and sponsored by Richmond 2015, the Organizing Committee for the 2015 UCI Road World Championships. The RVA community bike ride will end at the Hardywood Brewery where a party will then commence with music and food trucks; Saturday night's North American

premiere of PUSSY V. PUTIN at the Sound of Music venue, which is followed by a music showcase; and then off to the annual Saturday night, Industry Mixer at Balliceaux.

The annual Red Carpet Awards where top Grand Jury and Audience Award honors are announced will be held Sunday, March 2 at 4pm at the Byrd Theater with the red carpet opening at 3:15pm. This event, along with all film screenings, panels, and special events are open to the public. Advance tickets are encouraged, and on sale via the website or at the ticket line: 804-219-0675.

RIFF is a competitive and spirited festival designed to honor cutting edge international filmmakers and to bring RVA patrons an engaging and entertaining platform to interact with the artists. The festival also provides a collaborative platform between local filmmakers and others around the world with the purpose of furthering film production in Virginia. Sponsored by the Virginia Film Office, Richmond 2015, Shamin Hotels, PBS/WCVE, Anne Chapman Casting, the Virginia Center for Architecture, the Virginia Historical Society, Sifter, Balliceaux, and more.

For a sneak peek at this year's films and full screening schedule visit RVAFILMFESTIVAL.com
For press images and further info, email info@richmondfilmfestival.com or contact Heather Waters at 404-281-3748.

3126 W. Cary St, #605, Richmond, VA 23221, Tel: 404-281-3748

www.rvafilmfestival.com

###