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SHORT SHORT STORY FILM FESTIVAL DEBUT
First year of festival sells out, honors exceptional filmmaking

PROVIDENCE, RI – MergingArts Productions is extending its congratulations to the award winners in the First Annual Short Short Story Film Festival, which made its debut at the Perishable Theater in Providence, RI on November 17th, 2007.

The one-night festival featured films of five minutes or less in length, all of which told a story. There were over thirty films in all, presented in two “programs”, the first consisting of lighter or more romantic fare, and the second being darker or more experimental. Films from as far away as Australia and Europe were shown as well as many throughout North America.

The festival included a short after-party and awards ceremony, with some slight twists on the typical festival awards. *Happily Ever After*, an experimental romantic tragedy, won the *Imagination Award* for artistic vision. *The Soul of Wit Award* for screenplay dialog was given to *Fish, but No Cigar*, a musing on taking clichés too seriously. *Blue Dreams Downtown*, a film about a photograph coming to life, won the *Thousand Words Award* for films without spoken dialog. The *Heartstrings Award* for films with powerful emotional presentation went to *Wood Diary*, a peek into the day in the life of a unique man. A special “*Rammie*” *Award* for overall achievement went to *Homage to a Catalonian Christmas*, an entertaining look at some unusual celebrations.

Those in attendance voted, and in a close race, the short role-reversal comedy *The Job* was chosen as the recipient of the *Audience Award*, edging out *Kiwi*, a story of overcoming flightlessness, and earlier winner *Wood Diary*.

Presenters at the awards ceremony included Mike Ryan of the Rhode Island Film Collaborative, MergingArts Director Toni Pennacchia, and WUMD 89.3 FM radio host Gary Collins. Sponsors of the event - Toni-Ann Baker of Two Sisters’ Productions, Inc. and Anthony Demings of Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House - each presented as well.

The festival was a tremendous success and sold out with some showing up two hours early for tickets. All in attendance seemed to be pleased, and many complimented the unique programming of the festival. Jonathan D. Rabin, producer/director of *Italian*

Americans and Federal Hill (winner of the Documentary Audience Choice Award in the 2007 Rhode Island International Film Festival) said, “It was great! Where else can you see so many so short so good?”

The 2007 festival was presented in collaboration with the Rhode Island International Film Festival. Toni Pennacchia, Director of MergingArts Productions, says she plans to travel the 2008 festival to other locations in New England and eventually beyond. She is currently investigating a number of locations for 2008.

A thank you goes out to this year’s event sponsors: Two Sisters' Productions, Inc., a RI filmmaking production company, along with Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House, a Providence coffeeshop supporting the filmmaking and arts communities, and IMAGINE News, a print and online magazine for the film, TV, and media industries.

MergingArts Productions is an organization dedicated to presenting music, film, performance, and radio, bringing these elements to a variety of communities both locally and globally.

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