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Heroic, Shocking And Revealing Films Highlight This Year's Rainier Independent Film Festival Lineup

Screenings, workshops and gatherings will be held in unique venues in Mt. Rainier's Ashford Valley from June 11 to 13, 2010

ASHFORD, Washington – June 2, 2010 – An eclectic blend of 28 poignant short and feature length narratives and documentaries will be screened at the Rainier Independent Film Festival (RIFF) on June 11 to 13, 2010 in the Ashford Valley. In addition to screenings, the festival, in its fourth year, offers a workshop, audience-voted awards, an awards ceremony, social gatherings, and the rare opportunity to mix and mingle with the many filmmakers and actors in attendance.

“What sets this film festival apart is the great opportunity it provides to meet and mingle with film industry people,” remarked RIFF Festival Director Win Whittaker. “The relaxed atmosphere and intimate venues are a world away from the hustle and bustle associated with the film business.”

The festival's opening night film will be **Calvin Marshall**, directed by Gary Lundgren and starring Steve Zahn, Michelle Lombardo and Alex Frost. This heartfelt, baseball-centric feature-length comedy will be shown at the Mineral Lake Event Center on Friday, June 11, at 6:15PM, followed by the Opening Night Gala, at 8PM.

A block of four war/conflict-based short films – **Letter Home**, **Hidden in Time**, **Juche Rules**, and **Sedako's Cranes** -- ranging from Hiroshima to Viet Nam/Iraqi similarities to North Korea relations will be screened at Nisqually Lodge, from 11AM to 12:30PM on Saturday, May 3. Other films will take the audience from hippie farms in Washington (**Back to the Garden**) to the ancient ways of the Salish peoples with **Canoe Way** and on to **Burma: Reflections on a Hidden Land**. Woman's courage and feats will be celebrated with **Rise and Shine**, **The Lady & The Outlaw Horse**, and **Wings of Silver**. Viewers will be taken into an imaginative world with **Plant Girl** and kept on the edge of their seats with the emotionally charged, student film **Clemency**.

The ever-popular Warren Etheridge Workshop -- "The Art of the Interview or How to Grill a Star" – will take place at the Media Center at Whittaker's Bunkhouse on Sunday, June 13, from 1 to 2:30PM.

Filmed in Seattle, **The Immaculate Conception of Little Dizzle**, will be screened on Sunday, at the Mineral Lake Event Center at 6PM, prior to the Closing Gala and Awards Ceremony. "Simultaneously cynical and life-affirming, [Director David] Russo's comedy manages to incorporate biochemical engineering, corporate chicanery, drug addiction and high-art pretension—all while maintaining an amiable, insouciant charm."

A pass to all screenings, workshops and parties for all three days is \$35. A day-pass for all screenings and workshops on Saturday **or** Sunday is \$15. A ticket to the festival launch on Friday including the screening, the gala and two free drinks is \$15. Tickets are available online through Brown Paper Tickets (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/114771>), at Whittaker Mountaineering and at Whittaker's Bunkhouse, both in Ashford. A ticket for a single screening or workshop is \$5 and can be purchased at any of the three screening venues or online.

Just miles from the Nisqually entrance to Mount Rainier National Park, screening venues include the Mineral Lake Event Center, a refurbished 1940s grade school with a gymnasium seating up to 500 people; Nisqually Lodge Conference Center, seating up to 45 people; and the Yurt at Wellspring, in a tranquil setting amongst the trees at the Wellspring Spa & Retreat.

The Rainier Independent Film Festival is dedicated to providing truly independent filmmakers a venue to have their films screened. Nestled in the tranquil foothills surrounding Mt. Rainier, the Ashford Valley provides an ideal setting for RIFF.

For more information as well as a full screening schedule, please access <http://www.rainierfilmfest.com>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: To request a media pass to the festival, please contact Carol Zahorsky, carol@zahorskypr.com, 360.481.1752 (cell) or Win Whittaker at info@rainierfilmfest.com, 253.370.3520.