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5<sup>th</sup> RAINIER INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL LINE-UP

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ASHFORD, WA – Rainier Independent Film Festival (June 3-5, 2011) announces its official line-up, including 35 dynamic films in a variety of genres and topics. Several films come from regional filmmakers, and some selected films come to Ashford from around the world. Amidst the enthralling and entertaining films that will be shown at RIFF, a unique festival experience also awaits all attendees – the chance to mingle with filmmakers, to see films you won't see anywhere else, to celebrate independent filmmaking with friends new and old, and to do it all in the shadow of Mount Rainier.

RIFF organizers look forward to welcoming several filmmakers to the festival, including Brian and Kevin Flint, the makers of the award-winning documentary [CATCHING DREAMS](#), along with the Michael Peer, director of [FIVE POUNDS](#), and returning RIFF alumni like Benjamin Busch ([BRIGHT](#)); and those new to the festival, like Michael Barnett ([SUPERHEROES](#)). The latter film will be presented as part of a collection of documentaries (including [SOMETHING VENTURED](#), [CIRCO](#), and [ECHOTONE](#)), curated by Seattle film industry mogul, Warren Etheredge. This is the first year that RIFF has combined efforts with a guest curator to program an entire day of films, and festival organizers are pleased to have Warren play such a big part in this year's festival. Look for all of Etheredge's films on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Ashford Lions Hall. Several filmmakers or representatives from the films are expected to attend.

In addition to bringing high-profile films to RIFF, Warren Etheredge will lead a film workshop about crafting a compelling scene – in “DO Make a Scene!” on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Media Center in Ashford. The workshop is one of many special events included in this year's Rainier Independent Film Festival and audiences can attend all parties, workshops and screenings with the Rainier Blowout Pass for **just \$35!** Tickets

for individual screenings as well as festival passes are on sale now: online ([www.RainierFilmFest.com](http://www.RainierFilmFest.com)) or in person at the Whittaker's Bunkhouse or Whittaker Mountaineering in Ashford.

This year's opening night film, [THE DRUMMOND WILL](#) (directed by England's Alan Butterworth), is a black and white dark comedy that follows two estranged brothers as they discover their deceased father's unlikely wealth. Filmmakers will be dialed in for a post-film discussion via Skype following the 7pm screening on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Ashford Lions Hall. Audiences can enjoy a black-and-white themed Opening Night Gala following the film. Rounding out the exciting festival weekend will be the screening of the Closing Night film, [THE GRAY AREA](#), an Oregon-made drama that follows three young men who begin to unravel the mystery behind their friend's untimely death. The film's director, Chapin Hemmingway, and other filmmakers behind the project will be attendance. Festival Awards will be presented following the Closing Night screening, including Best Student Film, Best Short Documentary, Best Full Length Documentary, Best Narrative Short, Best Feature, and Audience Favorite.

For more information and the full festival schedule visit [www.RainierFilmFest.com](http://www.RainierFilmFest.com)

### **About Rainier Independent Film Festival**

The Rainier Independent Film Festival is dedicated to providing true Independent Filmmakers a venue to have their films screened in the tranquil area surrounding Mount Rainier. Mixing films, workshops and the laid-back setting of the area, this festival is set apart in the fact that it is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with film industry people outside of the hustle and bustle typically associated with the business.

Located in the shadow of Mount Rainier, the Ashford Valley provides the perfect setting for this festival. Our screening venues include the Ashford Lions Hall, a cozy lodge near Rainier, and an intimate setting in the prestigious Nisqually Lodge. All projection is shown in the latest digital technology.

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** To request a media pass to the festival, please contact Emily Alm ([emily@rainierfilmfest.com](mailto:emily@rainierfilmfest.com)) or Win Whittaker ([info@rainierfilmfest.com](mailto:info@rainierfilmfest.com), 253.370.3520).

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