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Winners of the 2009 Virginia Independent Film Competition and Festival Are Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2009

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RICHMOND, VA —The winners of the 2009 Virginia Independent Film Competition were announced at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond on Sunday, April 26, 2009. As part of the competition, documentaries, short films and feature films by Virginia filmmakers were submitted and evaluated by a panel of judges. The finalists were shown at a daylong film festival where the winners were announced in each of the categories. Winners were: documentary - *The Flyingest Flying*, directed by Josh Criss (Arlington); short film - *Concept of Beauty*, directed by Benny Oliveri and Martin Montgomery (Midlothian) and feature film - *In the Pines*, directed by Chip Johnson (Hampton).

Audience members also voted for their favorite films in the festival, awarding an Audience Choice Award to films in each category. Winners were: documentary - *Saving Grace—Resurrecting American History*, directed by Eric Allan Futterman (Glen Allen); short films - *Tide*, directed by Shane Rocheleau (Richmond) and *Concept of Beauty*, directed by Benny Oliveri and Martin Montgomery; feature film - *Recover Me*, directed by Dabsheen Amin (Chester).

The competition is designed to spotlight Virginia filmmakers and residents of the state were invited to submit their films, which were then reviewed by a panel of judges. The Virginia Independent Film Competition and Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Virginia Film Office and was created to support the state's filmmakers by providing them a public forum in which their work can be seen by the general public. The Festival is co-sponsored by and benefits the Virginia Production Alliance, an organization that is dedicated to supporting the film community in the state by providing events and opportunities for professional development.

For more information about the winning and finalist films, visit the Virginia Film Office website at www.film.virginia.org. For more information about the Virginia Production Alliance, visit their website at www.filmva.com.

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