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## P R E S S R E L E A S E

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### VIRGINIA FILM OFFICE ANNOUNCES 2009 VIRGINIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL FINALISTS TO BE SCREENED AT THE BYRD THEATRE, RICHMOND, APRIL 26

RICHMOND, VA — The Virginia Film Office announced the twelve finalist films for the second annual *Virginia Independent Film Competition and Festival*. The competition is a statewide search for the best feature films, documentaries and short films by Virginia filmmakers. Films were submitted from throughout the state, and the finalist films represent a wide variety of geographical regions including Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia, the Richmond area, and the Southwest. Entries were judged and winners chosen by professionals working in the industry.

Finalist films will be screened, and the winner in each category will be announced at a day-long film festival, sponsored by the Virginia Film Office and the Virginia Production Alliance, an organization that supports media production of all kinds in Virginia. It will be held at the Byrd Theatre on Sunday, April 26 from noon to 10:00 p.m. A new addition to this year's festival is the Audience Choice Award, a prize given to the audience's favorite film in each category. At the end of each of the three series, audience members will be given the opportunity to vote for the best film and a cash prize will be awarded.

The films will be shown in three categories beginning with the documentaries which will screen from noon until 4:00 p.m. *Saving Grace* (Glen Allen) is about the use of laser technology to rescue a decaying Richmond monument; *The Community Model in Corrections* (Richmond) examines a Richmond-based program that is changing the culture of incarceration and *The Flyingest Flying* (Arlington) in which the filmmaker explores the origins of hang gliding and records his experiences learning the sport at a Virginia flight park.

The six films that will be shown from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the short film category are: *Concept of Beauty* (Midlothian), a young man's journey to find beauty and inspiration; *Harmony Ranch* (Richmond), where critters and couples come for counseling; *La Vie est Courte (Life is Short)* (Burke), in which during the course of a single day, Claire must contemplate her biggest life-changing decision ever...whether or not she should text the boy of her dreams; *Singed* (Roanoke), an artist's exploration leads to a duality of self; *Tide* (Richmond) about a man and child who share a connection with the alchemy of the universe; and *Cannibal Cheerleader Camp* (Alexandria), about five girls who must band together to defend themselves from attack.

The festival will conclude with the feature film category from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. and will include: *In the Pines* (Hampton), when a prank goes horribly awry during a camping trip, one friend is left dead, one friend slowly loses his mind, and the rest are running for their lives; *Singularity* (Richmond) that asks the question, "There is a moment in everyone's life that is perfect. What would you do to live in that moment?"; *Recover Me* (Chester), about a single mother who struggles to fight a drug addiction and find her own happiness.

The Festival will be held at the Byrd Theatre, Richmond's historic movie palace, 2908 West Cary Street, located in the heart of Carytown, Richmond's fun and funky shopping and dining district. All proceeds from the Festival will benefit the Virginia Production Alliance and its work on behalf of Virginia's film, television, video and commercial production community. Admission to each of the screening series is \$5.00 and an all-day pass is \$10.00. Students with I.D. and Virginia Production Alliance members can purchase an all-day pass for \$5.00. For more information, visit the Virginia Film Office Website at [www.film.virginia.org](http://www.film.virginia.org).

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*Film*  
Virginia is for Lovers ♥



## Virginia Independent Film Festival Finalists and Screening Schedule

Noon - 4 p.m.

### DOCUMENTARIES

#### **Saving Grace**

58minutes

**Director:** Eric Futterman

**Producer:** E.A. Futterman

**Screenwriter:** Eric Allan Futterman

**Actors:** Wali Brandon

**Synopsis:** Laser technology rescues a decaying monument in Richmond, VA

#### **The Community Model in Corrections**

20minutes

**Director:** Lucas Krost

**Producer:** Alexandra Krost

**Screenwriter:** Morgan Moss, Penny Patton, Lee Gimpel

**Synopsis:** The Community Model, a Virginia based program, is changing the culture of incarceration.

#### **The Flyingest Flying**

1hour 20minutes

**Director:** Josh Criss

**Producer:** Josh Criss

**Screenwriter:** Josh Criss

**Actors:** Bill Bennett, Bill Moyes, John Dickenson, Francis Rogallo, Bill Forrest, Zelda Uttal, Steve Wendt

**Synopsis:** The filmmaker explores the origins of hang gliding and records his experiences learning the sport at a Virginia flight park.

**The series will conclude with a Q&A session with the filmmakers and the announcement of the winning film and the audience choice award.**

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## Virginia Independent Film Festival Finalists and Screening Schedule

4 – 6 p.m.

### Short Films

#### Concept of Beauty

13minutes

**Director:** Benny Oliveri and Martin Montgomery  
**Producer:** Scott Strimple, Jude Fageas  
**Screenwriter:** Jude Fageas  
**Actors:** Jude Fageas, Scott Wichman, Matthew Hall, Angela Shipley, Alia Bisharat, Eddie Tavares, Andy Brown Fadi Abuhijleh, Marcus Hyde, Benny Oliveri  
**Synopsis:** A young man on a journey to find life's subtle beauty and inspiration

#### Harmony Ranch

7minutes

**Director:** Hal Dowdy  
**Producer:** Mark Remes  
**Screenwriter:** Hal Dowdy, Jennifer Massey, Joe Inscoe, Noah Percy  
**Actors:** Joe Inscoe, Raynor Scheine, Jennifer Massey, Jan Guarino, Steve Hurwitz, Mark Joy  
**Synopsis:** Harmony Ranch-where critters and couples come for counseling.

#### La Vie est Courte (Life is Short)

7minutes

**Director:** Sallie Keena  
**Producer:** Joe Carabeo  
**Screenwriter:** Joe Carabeo - Sallie Keena  
**Actors:** Sallie Keena, Charles Bevan  
**Synopsis:** During the course of a single day, Claire must contemplate her biggest life changing decision ever... whether or not she should text the boy of her dreams.

The series will conclude with a Q&A session with the filmmakers and the announcement of the winning film and the audience choice award.

#### Singed

3minutes

**Director:** A.A. Thweatt  
**Producer:** A.A. Thweatt, Jasmine Kettenacker  
**Screenwriter:** A.A. Thweatt  
**Actors:** Carly Hays  
**Synopsis:** An artist's exploration leads to a duality of self.

#### Tide

10minutes

**Director:** Shane Rocheleau  
**Producer:** Jacob Dodd, Bryant Dameron, Shane Rocheleau  
**Screenwriter:** Shane Rocheleau  
**Actors:** Kenneth Abrams, Maddie Gunter  
**Synopsis:** Hal is an everyman decorating the slow, expansive time stretched endlessly before him. Anna is a carefree child tied – like all of us – to the peculiar and apathetic alchemy of the universe.

#### Cannibal Cheerleader Camp

18minutes

**Director:** Paul Buseti  
**Producer:** Paul Buseti, Ian Albetski, Colin Lamb  
**Screenwriter:** Paul Buseti  
**Actors:** Bridget Devlin Burke, Jenna St. John, Tara Bowen, Kerry Kearns, Rebecca Jones  
**Synopsis:** Something in the woods is growing tired of feeding on animals and is hungry for human flesh. Five girls at a defunct camp must band together to defend themselves from its attacks.

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## Virginia Independent Film Festival Finalists and Screening Schedule

6 – 10 p.m.

### Feature Films

#### **In The Pines**

1 hour 36 minutes

**Director:** Chip Johnson

**Producer:** Chip Johnson

**Screenwriter:** Chip Johnson

**Actors:** Nicholas X. Parsons, Shawn S. Singletary

**Synopsis:** When a prank goes horribly awry during a camping trip, one friend is left dead, one friend slowly loses his mind, and the rest are running for their lives.

#### **Singularity**

28 minutes

**Director:** Paul Gleason

**Producer:** Nathan Burns, Paul Gleason, Sarah Masters

**Screenwriter:** Paul Gleason

**Actors:** Nicholas Lazo, Sarah Miles, Nathan Burns

**Synopsis:** There is a moment in everyone's life that is perfect. What would you do to live in that moment?

#### **Recover Me**

1 hour 38 minutes

**Director:** Dabsheen Amin

**Producer:** Good News Productions

**Screenwriter:** Dabsheen Amin

**Actors:** Crystal Farmer, Victor Manuel Lemus, Cameron Taylor, Nolan Clark

**Synopsis:** A single mother struggles to fight a drug addiction, find love, and claim her own "pursuit of happiness". Her desires are met but in a way that challenges her strength and sobriety.

**The series will conclude with a Q&A session with the filmmakers and the announcement of the winning film and the audience choice award.**

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