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Virginia Film Office announces finalists for Virginia Film Competition

Films shown at the Virginia Independent Film Festival April 26th

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RICHMOND, Va. – The Virginia Film Office recently sponsored the first annual **Virginia Film Competition**. After a preliminary round of judging, thirteen finalists were selected in the categories of short films, documentaries and feature films. Competition finalists will be screened at the **Virginia Independent Film Festival**, a day-long festival sponsored by the Film Office and the Virginia Production Alliance on Saturday, April 26th at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond.. Documentaries will be screened from 10:00am – 12:00pm; short films from 12:30pm – 2:30pm and feature films from 3:00pm– 6:15pm. Audiences will be invited to take part in a question and answer session with the filmmakers at the end of each series, after which winners in each category will be announced. Admission for a series is \$5.00 or a full-day pass may be purchased for \$10.00.

The **Virginia Film Competition** was created to select some of the best films from Virginia independent filmmakers and to give those filmmakers an opportunity to have their work shown to industry professionals and the public. Films were submitted in one of three categories and were required to have been primarily filmed in Virginia by Virginia residents or students attending Virginia schools. Thirteen finalists were selected by a first round of judges. A second round of judges will select the winners in all categories prior to the Festival. The filmmaker of the winning short will win a cash prize of two hundred fifty dollars and the filmmakers of the winning feature and documentary films will win five hundred dollars.

Finalists represent virtually the entire state and include filmmakers from Virginia Beach, Amherst, Richmond, Gainesville, Arlington, Portsmouth, Bristol and Charlottesville. The finalists by category are:

Documentaries: *Project Floyd*, Kevin Mounce (Virginia Beach); *The Person Most Real*, Olivia Dodson (Amherst); *Discovering Archaeology: The Curles Neck Project*, Robert Mark (Richmond).

Short Films: *Canned*, Joseph Rohrs (Virginia Beach); *Lustig*, John Francis Black II (Gainesville); *When You Wish Upon A Fish*, Gabe Uhr (Arlington); *Scarlet Letters*, Kevin Hershberger (Richmond); *Hard Boiled*, Brian Wimer (Charlottesville); *Thoughts on Departure*, William Robinette (Richmond); *April Fool*, James Shearer (Portsmouth).

Feature Films: *Subs*, Jay Gates (Virginia Beach); *Freedom*, Rick McVey (Bristol); *Forgotten Stars*, James Shearer (Portsmouth).

These films are unrated and may not be suitable for all audiences.

For more information visit www.film.virginia.org or www.byrdtheatre.com

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