

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

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HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INVITES PUBLIC TO FREE SEMINAR TO DISCUSS STRUGGLING FILM INDUSTRY IN HAWAII

FREE Public Seminar Sponsored by Bank of Hawaii

HONOLULU, HI (October 21, 2009) – The Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is always at the forefront of developments in the film industry in the Islands and this year it's evident the state's film industry is facing many future challenges. With Act 221 tax credits for film production expired, the worst recession in the State's history, and the imminent closing of the State Film Office, Hawaii's creative content industry is facing a major crisis.

This Saturday, October 24th, local industry leaders have been invited to take part in a seminar to discuss the many obstacles ahead for local film, TV and commercial producing and production crews. HIFF would like to invite the public to attend this free seminar, sponsored by Bank of Hawaii, being held at 12:30 p.m. at Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters. Panelists for the seminar will include: Brett Wagner, director, Wagnervision (CHIEF); Angela Laprete producer and production manager (THE LYCHEE THIEVES, ONE KINE DAY, YOU MAY NOT KISS THE BRIDE); Donne Dawson, Film Commissioner, Hawaii Film Office; James Sereno, director, Kinetic Films (SILENT YEARS); Jason Lau and John Ching, principals, Talk Story Productions (upcoming TEMPEST, BEYOND THE BREAK); and Ric Galindez and Roy Tjioe, producers from Island Film Group (BARBARIAN PRINCESS).

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year's festival. HIFF's 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters from October 15–25. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF's box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters or by phone at (808) 548-5905. The film guide is available now online at www.hiff.org. For more information please visit us at www.hiff.org.

STATE OF THE HAWAII INDUSTRY

Join us for a very candid talk with industry leaders in the local film, TV and commercial fields as they discuss the accomplishments and many challenges they face every day. The discussion will visit many topics ranging from developing scripts with local/global appeal, nurturing emerging artists, financing in a post Act 221 world, and predictions on the state of the industry in the months and years to come.

Confirmed Panelists: Brett Wagner, Angela Laprete, Donne Dawson, James Sereno, Jason Lau, John Ching, Ric Galindez and Roy Tjioe.

Saturday, October 24 | 12:30pm | Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters

Festival Information

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as ONCE WERE WARRIORS, THE PIANO, SHINE, SHALL WE DANCE, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON. Plus, DEPARTURES, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award, and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival will be held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at <http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink>. For more information please visit our website at www.hiff.org.

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