

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2009 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SPOTLIGHTS FILMS OF THE WORLD
*Hotel Renew Proudly Sponsors World Cinema***

HONOLULU, HI (October 15, 2009) – The 29th annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is pleased to present a talented array of films from artistic creators around the world in our WORLD CINEMA series sponsored by Hotel Renew. WORLD CINEMA offers an array of movies ranging from murder mystery to drama to claymation. This year, all nine films screening in our WORLD CINEMA spotlight are U.S. premieres.

Audiences will relish the super-natural drama *THE ECLIPSE*, starring Irish actor Ciarán Hinds who has already won the best actor award at the Tribeca Film Festival for his performance. Taiwanese film director Tsai Mingliang offers an unusual story about a film director who travels to the Louvre in Paris to take on an ambitious film project in *FACE*.

HIFF is also pleased to present *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN*, starring France's grand dame of cinema Catherine Deneuve. The film centers on the true story of one of the most media frenzied events of recent French history when a young woman invents a story about being attacked on a train by black and Arab youths who mistook her for a Jew.

The documentary *AN ISLAND CALLING* is another WORLD CINEMA spotlighted film. It tells the tale of the 2001 murder of an openly gay couple in Fiji, examining the complex and volatile heritage found in this beautiful island paradise.

MAMMOTH, from Swedish director Lukas Moodysson, and starring Gael Garcia Bernal and Michelle Williams, takes viewers on a journey through the lives of three very different families from the US, the Philippines and Thailand.

Another WORLD CINEMA highlight is the claymation feature *MARY & MAX* from the creators of the Academy Award winning short animation *HARVIE KRUMPET*. An official opening night selection at this year's Sundance film Festival, *MARY & MAX* is the tale of an unlikely friendship between two pen pals.

HIFF's WORLD CINEMA selections also include *THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE*, a story inspired by a tuberculosis epidemic in the Inuit population of Canada's Far North in the 1940s and '50s, a modern day dramatic love story in *ONCE UPON A TIME IN RIO* from director Breno Silveira and *STRENGTH OF WATER*, the debut feature from award-winning New Zealand Director Armagan Ballantyne about a set of Maori twins who witness a horrible accident.

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.

**FILM SYNOPSES: (All screening times subject to change)
(MY HIFF: Indicates Other Films Viewers Might Like)**

THE ECLIPSE

World Cinema
Hawaii Premiere

Amid lush hills and crumbling stone abbeys, the soggy waterside town of Cobh plays host to a chaotic annual literary festival. Widower Michael has been adjusting to his new role as the sole caretaker of his two young kids. When he volunteers as a handler at the festival, chance finds him driving supernatural-fiction writer Lena and he becomes drawn to her but finds himself competing for her attentions. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Ireland 2009 | 88M

Director: Conor McPherson
Cast: Ciaran Hinds, Iben Hjejle, Aidan Quinn
23-Oct 6:00 PM Dole
MY HIFF: MAMMOTH / JOHN RABE

**FACE
VISAGE**

World Cinema
Hawaii Premiere

Hsiao-Kong is a director from Taiwan who is soon to begin shooting his next picture in France. Hsiao-Kong arrives in Paris to discover his producers have cast a well-known model with no acting experience in the leading role, which adds to the challenge of working in a language in which he's not fluent and having a leading man who seems to have lost his memory. Hsiao-Kong's troubles with the shoot are at once exacerbated and made insignificant when he learns of the death of his mother. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Taiwan, France, Belgium, Netherlands 2009 | Mandarin, French w/ English subtitles | 138M

Director: Tsai Mingliang
Cast: Nathalie Baye, Laetitia Casta, Mathieu Amalric, Fanny Ardant
24-Oct 12:30 PM Dole
25-Oct 3:15 PM Dole
MY HIFF: GIRL ON THE TRAIN / YANG YANG

**THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
LA FILLE DU RER**

World Cinema
Hawaii Premiere

A young French woman is brutally attacked by a group of Jewish teens on a Parisian train. The President and community rally around her for support. The problem: the attack is a lie. Director André Téchiné's fictional offering based on a true story expertly dissects the psychological circumstances and consequences surrounding this bold lie in a rich drama starring the legendary Catherine Deneuve. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

France 2009 | French w/ English subtitles | 105M

Director: André Téchiné

Cast: Emilie Dequenne, Catherine Deneuve, Michel Blanc, Ronit Elkabetz, Mathieu Demy

15-Oct 8:30 PM Dole

19-Oct 2:00 PM Dole

MY HIFF: TALENTIME / BARE ESSENCE OF LIFE

AN ISLAND CALLING

Reel Life

Hawaii Premiere

John Scott, director of the Fiji Red Cross, received international acclaim in May 2000 by courageously assisting a group of hostages being held in the Fijian Parliament for 56 days during a political coup. A year later, Scott, a Fiji-born descendent of a European colonial family, and his partner, Greg Scrivener, were found murdered. AN ISLAND CALLING is an unusual and intricate murder mystery, which seeks not to find the killer, but to discover the killer's motives through a society's politics and history. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

New Zealand 2008 | 75M

Director: Annie Goldson

Featuring: Owen Scott

20-Oct 2:00 PM Dole

22-Oct 1:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: STORM / 9500 LIBERTY

MAMMOTH

MAMMUT

World Cinema

Hawaii Premiere

MAMMOTH intercuts three stories, set variously in the U.S., the Philippines and Thailand, each involving working parents who regret they can't spend more time with their children. However, the shallow, mega-wealthy, entitled American characters can afford top-of-the-line replacement child care in their deluxe Soho loft, in stark contrast to the single-mother Filipino nanny and the Thai sex worker, who struggle far from home to build a better life for their loved ones. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Denmark, Germany, Sweden 2009 | English, Thai, Tagalog w/ English subtitles | 125M

Director: Lukas Moodysson

Cast: Gael Garcia Bernal, Michelle Williams, Marife Necesito, Thomas McCarthy

18-Oct 6:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: GIRL ON THE TRAIN / JOHN RABE

MARY & MAX

World Cinema

Hawaii Premiere

This amazing claymation film tells the dark but heartwarming story of an unusual and unlikely pen-pal friendship between two misfits from very different walks of life--Mary Dinkle, a chubby, lonely, 8-year-old Australian girl and Max Horowitz, a 44-year-old, severely obese, Jewish-American man with Asperger syndrome. This visual masterpiece subtly and deftly explores the absurdities of life, as seen through the eyes of two very different, but similar people. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Australia 2009 | 92M

Director: Adam Elliot

Cast: Toni Collette, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Eric Bana

19-Oct 4:15 PM Dole

20-Oct 1:00 PM Dole

MY HIFF: UNDER THE MOUNTAIN / WHITE ON RICE

THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE CE QU'IL FAUT POUR VIVRE

World Cinema

Hawaii Premiere

In the 1950s, after being diagnosed with tuberculosis, Tivii, an Inuit hunter, is forced from his family and home by Canadian authorities and quarantined in a Quebec City tuberculosis sanitarium. After falling into a deep depression, Tivii's spirits are renewed when he takes a fatherly interest in a similarly afflicted Inuit orphan boy. This film won several awards at the Montreal World Film Festival, including a special Grand Prize of the Jury. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Canada 2008 | French, Inuktitut w/ English subtitles | 102M

Director: Benoit Pilon

Cast: Denis Bernard, Eveline Gelin, Vincent-Guillaume Otis

16-Oct 3:15 PM Dole

17-Oct 9:00 PM Dole

MY HIFF: JOHN RABE / OLD PARTNER

ONCE UPON A TIME IN RIO ERA UMA VEZ...

World Cinema

Hawaii Premiere

Young De lives alone with his mother Bernadete. He belongs to this invisible class, working as a hot dog vendor at one of the stalls in Ipanema. One day at the beach, De meets Nina, the only child of a lawyer, Evandro. They fall in love, despite coming from vastly different communities. Unfolding like a fairy tale, Once Upon a Time in Rio is a tragic love story set in a city divided by economic privilege and prejudice. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

Brazil 2009 | Portuguese w/ English subtitles | 117M

Director: Breno Silveira

Cast: Thiago Martins, Vitoria Frate, Rocco Pitanga, Cyria Coentro

18-Oct 5:30 PM Dole

21-Oct 1:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: TALENTIME / BEST OF TIMES

THE STRENGTH OF WATER

World Cinema

Hawaii Premiere

Kimi and Melody, twins in a Maori farm family, are forever changed when the village's tapu house becomes occupied by a drifter and a terrible accident rattles the entire village. The starkly beautiful Hokianga coast and haunting score amplify the moving performances of the film's young actors. The Strength of Water, from first-time director Armagan Ballantyne and award-winning playwright Briar

Grace-Smith, sensitively examines life and loss in a rural Maori community. This screening is sponsored by Hotel Renew.

New Zealand 2009 | English, Maori w/ English subtitles | 86M

Director: Armagan Ballantyne

Cast: Hato Papanoa, Melanie Mayall-Nahi, Jim Moriarty, Nancy Brunning

15-Oct 8:30 PM Dole

19-Oct 5:30 PM Dole

MY HIFF: UNDER THE MOUNTAIN / AFTER THE STORM

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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