

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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World Arts Film Festival
830 A1A North, Suite 13 #363
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

World Arts Film Festival Preparing 4th Annual Event for Downtown Jacksonville, Florida

(Jacksonville, FL) – On May 3, 4, and 5th, the 4th Annual World Arts Film Festival, invites first-time and established filmmakers to showcase their talents with short film screenings, panels, workshops, and exhibits at the WJCT PBS Television Studios. Dedicated to a global message of communication through the arts and education, the festival brings together diverse groups of filmmakers of all ages and backgrounds, including those with special needs, to meet and mentor each other and their audiences.

The festival was created to elevate the unique visual ‘voices’ of film artists and how they see, hear, feel, and touch the world. Industry guests will share their experiences with attendees who can also participate in hands-on workshops with local and international artists from New York, Los Angeles, and Canada.

Among the scheduled guests, award-winning filmmaker and educator, Tamika Lamison (*The Magic Bracelet*, *The Black Ghiandola*) will screen her new film and short films from the Make A Film Foundation *Vidz4Kidz Documentary Project*. Lamison will also produce a series of short film shoots while in Jacksonville. Each production centers on the story of a child as written by the child and film mentors from World Arts, MAFF, and the sponsor organizations. Five projects are possible and the HEAL Foundation has already come on board as a Jacksonville-based supporter for one of the films. Lamison who is also an educator with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ Education Department presents youth film programs around the country. She will speak to Duval County students and attendees at the Opening Morning Ceremony of the festival. More information on MAFF can be found at www.MakeAFilmFoundation.org. Sponsors interested in supporting this opportunity for children to share their stories may call festival founder, Karen Sadler at 904-568-0372 for more information.

Festival guest Rachel Barcellona, an accomplished thespian, writer and the current Miss Florida International will be at the festival to participate and serve as a mentor to young filmmakers and attendees. As an individual with Epilepsy and Aspergers syn-

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drome, a form of autism, Rachel shares an important message for all. In a recent interview she said, "People with disabilities or anyone who is different are often targets for bullies as I was, but because of my life and social experiences, I have overcome many challenges." The Festival has invited Rachel Barcellona to share her experiences with over 900 students attending from area schools through the Duval County STEAM Passport program.

Students will get to see films, including some made by Duval County students from Englewood Elementary including *AQUA BULLY*. Working with their art teacher, Ms. Kris Campbell, Sadler says, "Kris' work with her students is very inspiring, the students are learning so much, including how to craft a story, an important writing skill that we were able to support during a screenwriting residency this past year." Sadler's organization offers film programs and artist residencies year-round with opportunities for students' films to be featured at the Festival. The festival field trip gives teachers a standards-based packet and new ways to expand the experience into the classroom.

Students get to meet filmmakers and industry professionals who come out to talk about creative career paths and the importance of focus and follow through in any pursuit they choose. Every student participates in a range of hands-on experiential learning workshops each day.

Barcellona also has a documentary screening at the fest which follows her life story, *Ability: A Journey With Rachel* directed by Adam Ricketts, a Tampa-based young filmmaker with autism. The film will screen for students and as part of the *Young Filmmakers* program.

Sadler's focus on education and inclusive programming helps raise awareness. Filmmakers and artists with differing abilities recognize the importance of this festival's inclusive message. Director Atticus Wright who was a student at Sadler's first filmmaking camps for children in 2008 at University of North Florida, just graduated from The Art Institutes of Jacksonville film program. Wright is having his first festival screening of *The Drummer* here.

"World Arts Film Festival recognizes top films and the talents that create them," says Festival Director, Karen Sadler. She is certainly looking forward to the line-up of films, "This is our fourth year and we are so excited to be located at WJCT!"

Films screening at the festival can be up to 20 minutes in length. There are many selections from around the world. The full list of films can be found on the festival website. Doors open at 10:00 a.m with special events and receptions ending at 9:00 p.m. After

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parties to be announced. Films are geared for all ages and adults will find the evening events fun and a great place to meet the filmmakers and guests.

Here are just a few of the exciting films to look out for Wednesday through Friday:

The Original Richard McMahan directed by Olympia Stone

Striking A Chord: Instruments of Healing directed by Susan Rockefeller

Don't Be Afraid of Bears an animation directed by Jill Johnston

Girl a short film written, directed, acted and produced by Danielle Karagannis

The Black Ghiandola produced by the Make A Film Foundation features actors Johnny Depp (Pirates of the Caribbean), J.K. Simmons (Whiplash), Richard Chamberlain (Twin Peaks), Chad L. Coleman (Walking Dead) with Directors Theodore Malfi (*Hidden Figures*) and Catherine Hardwicke (*Twilight*). Special Screening with Behind the Scenes Documentary presented by Executive Producer Tamika Lamison.

Festival passes for the 4th Annual World Arts Film Festival are available now online at <https://waf4.eventbrite.com>

For special group pricing and school field trips call 904-568-0372 to make arrangements. For more information on films, exhibits and experiential workshops, volunteering or to sponsor the festival, please contact Founder and Director, Karen Sadler at www.-WorldArtsFilmFestival.org.

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