

For Immediate Release

Stony Brook Film Festival
Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University

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**Stony Brook Film Festival Presenting Career Achievement Award to
Christine Vachon of Killer Films**

**EPIX Original Documentary, *TWA Flight 800*
Revisits Investigation of 1996 Crash off L.I.**

June 3, 2013, Stony Brook, NY—The 18th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival presents an exciting mix of new independent features, documentaries and shorts coming to Staller Center for the Arts for ten days from Thursday, July 18 to Saturday, July 27.

Alan Inkles, founder and director of the Stony Brook Film Festival, has carefully curated the selections for the popular summer festival, giving audiences screening experiences they won't find anywhere else. "In the most competitive season in our eighteen year festival, I felt we left a second festival on the cutting room floor. The entries this year, both in the shorts and features categories, were challenging, entertaining and full of discoveries," said Mr. Inkles.

Career Achievement Award: Christine Vachon of Killer Films

One of the highlights of the Stony Brook Film Festival is scheduled for Friday, July 26, as legendary producer and indie film powerhouse Christine Vachon of Killer Films is honored by the Stony Brook Film Festival with a Career Achievement Award. It will coincide with the screening of her new film, *Deep Powder*, on Friday, July 26 at 7:00 pm. Expected to attend is *Deep Powder* director Mo Ogradnick and cast from the film, Shiloh Fernandez and Haley Bennet.

Christine Vachon recently joined the Stony Brook Southampton Arts faculty to establish a cutting edge graduate program in film that will, Vachon says, "reflect the reality of film today." The Stony Brook Film Festival will partner with Stony Brook Southampton this summer as Professor Vachon leads the inaugural offering of Stony Brook Southampton's new '20/20/20' scholarship program: 20 filmmakers, 20 days, 20 films.

Ms. Vachon has produced over seventy films in less than twenty years—seven features in the last year alone. Including *At Any Price* (Zac Efron, Dennis Quaid), *Kill Your Darlings* (Daniel Radcliffe), and *Deep Powder*, with director Mo Ogradnik. Vachon's filmography includes such notables as *Far from Heaven* (four Academy Award nominations), *Kids* (Chloe Sevigny), *Boys Don't Cry* (Chloe Sevigny and Academy Award Winner Hilary Swank), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Sundance Film Festival), *I Shot Andy Warhol* (Lili Talor), *I'm Not There* (Cate Blanchette), and recently the HBO miniseries, *Mildred Pierce* (Kate Winslet). Christine has been a Jury Member of the New York International Children's Film Festival (NYICFF), the Sundance Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival, and the Sarajevo Film Festival. She has been awarded an Emmy, the National Board of Review Producers Award, the New York Film Critics Circle Award, and the Provincetown International Film Festival Filmmaker on the Edge Award.

Festival Premiere: TWA Flight 800

Premium network EPIX presents a stunning American documentary, having its Festival Premiere screening on Saturday, July 20 at 3:00 pm, followed by a Q & A panel discussion with the filmmakers, Kristina Borjesson and Tom Stalcup.

TWA Flight 800 presents the saga of the catastrophic crash off the south shore of Long Island on July 17, 1996. At the time, it was called "the largest aviation investigation in U.S. and world history." But it was also the most controversial. Now, a team of insiders from that investigation comes forward in this feature documentary to uncover what really happened to TWA Flight 800. It is also the story of one extraordinary scientist, Tom Stalcup, who spent years fighting for access to documents and evidence. Thirteen years into his quest, several retired members of the official crash investigation joined him. In *TWA Flight 800*, these former government insiders blow the whistle on their own investigation and spend two years helping the scientist uncover the truth. What follows is a story of intense personal journeys and a grand-scale exposé with breathtaking implications.

The producer/director of *TWA Flight 800* is print and broadcast journalist Kristina Borjesson, who edited and contributed to the book, *Into the Buzzsaw: Leading Journalists Expose the Myth of a Free Press*, for which she won the National Press Club's Arthur Rowse Award. Jeff Segansky, entertainment industry veteran and former president of CBS Broadcasting is executive producer. *TWA Flight 800* in an EPIX Original Documentary with a premiere date on EPIX and EpixHD.com on July 17, 2013.

Jena Malone and Chloe Sevigny in *The Wait*

Director M Blash's *The Wait* starring Jena Malone and Chloe Sevigny (*Boys Don't Cry*) will follow the screening of *Deep Powder*. Screening at 9:30 pm on July 26, the East Coast Premiere promises audiences an unusual film with a complex aesthetic. Director and cast have been invited to the screening.

Opening and Closing Nights

Outstanding directors will be on hand to represent their films on Opening and Closing Nights, fielding questions after screenings.

Opening Night features the East Coast premiere of *Zaytoun*, directed by Eran Riklis (*Lemon Tree*), who will be attending on Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 pm. *Zaytoun* stars Stephen Dorff (*Somewhere*) playing an Israeli soldier who is shot down over Beirut during the 1982 Lebanese War. He is taken prisoner by inhabitants of a Palestinian refugee camp, and among his captors is a ten-year-old boy, Fahed (Abdallah El Akal). The film is a moving portrait of the tentative bond forged between the Israeli pilot and the refugee boy.

Closing night features the East Coast Premiere of the Norwegian and German dramatic thriller, *Two Lives*, which takes place in Norway in 1990. Director Georg Maas will be on hand at Stony Brook at the screening on Saturday, July 27 at 8:30 pm. *Two Lives* is a compelling meditation on identity, morality and family. Katrine (Juliane Köhler) is the 'war child' of a Norwegian mother and a soldier from Germany's occupying army. An adult now, she enjoys family life with her mother, her husband, daughter and granddaughter. Everything changes for Katrine when a web of concealments is revealed. The fine cast includes Norwegian film legend Liv Ullmann as Katrine's mother.

Stony Brook will present the World Premiere of the feature, *A New York Heartbeat*, a riveting story about gangsters in 1959 Brooklyn, starring Escher Holloway, Rachel Brosnahan (*Beautiful Creatures*) and Eric Roberts. Director Tjardus Greidanus and cast are expected to attend.

The Blitz will be making its U.S. premiere on Friday, July 19 at 7 pm. The dramatic film is set just days before the Germans bombed the Netherlands in May 1940. Director Ate de Jong (*Drop Dead Fred*) will be attending with Dutch actress Roos van Erkel. The Festival will also host the U.S. Premiere of the German drama, *The Tower*, directed by Christian Schwochow.

Among the international films making East Coast Premieres is the powerful documentary from Pakistan, *These Birds Walk*, the Serbian-Croatian *My Beautiful Country*, the Polish drama *Manhunt*, the Turkish feature *Watchtower*, the Israeli drama *Inheritance*, directed by acclaimed actress Hiam Abbass (*Lemon Tree*) in her directorial debut. She also stars in the film.

Muscle Shoals, a documentary about Rick Hall's FAME recording studio and its house band, born in the tiny town of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, screens on Thursday, July 25 at 9:15 pm, making its New York Premiere. Keith Richard, Aretha Franklin, Bono, Wilson Pickett, Greg Allman and many others are featured.

Premiere status

Of the thirty-three films selected for screening in Stony Brook's highly selective festival, one is a World Premieres, four are U.S. Premieres, ten are East Coast Premieres, and nine are New York Premieres.

Film passes good for all films are available for \$80 at www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com or by calling the Staller Center Box Office at (631) 632-ARTS [2787]. Seating is guaranteed for Passholders up to 15 minutes prior to screening time with no Box Office lines to wait on. An exclusive Passholder line in the Staller Center lobby allows Passholders to enter the theatre first. In addition, Festival reception tickets (Opening and Closing Night) are discounted for Passholders. Single tickets go on sale on Monday, July 8. \$9 general admission/\$7 seniors and students.

For up-to-date information visit www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com

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