

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stony Brook Film Festival
Contact: Julie Rulon Greene
(631) 632-7233

julie@stonybrookfilmfestival.com

Photos below

**U.S. Premiere of *Sonny Boy* Brings Filmmakers to Stony Brook
- Opening Night Sells Out -**

July 22, 2011, Stony Brook, NY— The Stony Brook Film Festival opened with Maria Peters' riveting drama from the Netherlands, the U.S. Premiere of *Sonny Boy*. The 1110-seat Main Stage Theatre at Staller Center for the Arts was completely sold out. *Sonny Boy* is based on actual events, centering on Rika (Ricky Koole) a devoted, fun-loving mother of four children, and Waldemar (Sergio Hasselbaink), an ambitious, earnest young man from Surinam who travels to Holland to study. Pre-war Dutch society with its prejudices and rigidity and the devastating consequences of World War II are central to the story. The film is an adaptation of the bestselling novel by Annejet van der Zijl, who attended the Festival along with the producer, Hans Pos; Maria Peters, director; the principal actors Ricky Koole and Sergio Hasselbaink; Daniel van Wijk, the young "Sonny Boy" in the film, and the actual son of Waldy Nods ("Sonny Boy"), Remko Nods and his family.

Alan Inkles, director of the Stony Brook Film Festival, introduced the filmmakers who came from the Netherlands for the U.S. premiere. The Q&A on stage included Remko Nods and Annejet van de Zijl along with all the cast members.

The ten-day Stony Brook Film Festival runs through July 30, closing with the East Coast premiere of *Almanya*, directed by Yasemin Samdereli, who will be attending the Festival from Germany with her co-writer and sister, Nesrin Samdereli.

U.S. Premieres at the Stony Brook Film Festival

U.S. Premieres include *Silence is Golden*, which is represented by writer/director Ewa Pytka attending the Festival from Poland; *Don't Touch My Children* (also from the Netherlands) directed by Ron Termaat; *With Love from the Age of Reason*, written and directed by Yann Samuëll; *My Wife's Romance*, written and directed by Djamshed Usmonov; and *Late Bloomers*, directed by Julie Gavras, with Isabella Rossellini (who is expected to attend) and William Hurt. This year, more distributors and sales agents are attending the Festival and deals are already being discussed.

Stony Brook Film Festival attendees have included many notables such as Alan Alda, David Arquette, Stephen Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Dana Delany, Lauren Graham, Terry Green, Cady Huffman, Todd Kormarnicki, Ralph Macchio, Jena Malone, Mary Stuart Masterson, Anne Meara, Michael Miner, Patricia Neal, Tim Blake Nelson, Christopher Plummer, Lawrence Pressman, John Putsch, Cliff Robertson, Campbell Scott, Leelee Sobieski, Rod Steiger, David Strathairn, Tilda Swinton, Eli Wallach, M. Emmett Walsh and Frank Whaley.

Films that premiered at Stony Brook include *Aurora Borealis*, *Camille*, *Children of Glory*, *The Deep End*, *Emotional Arithmetic*, *Garden State*, *The Grey Zone*, *Heavens Fall*, *The Little Traitor*, *Marilyn Hotchkiss' Ballroom Dancing & Charm School*, *Off the Map*, *Phoebe in Wonderland*, *Resistance*, *The Rocket Post*, *Rocket Science*, *The Secret Lives of Dentists*, *Swimming Upstream*, and *Tickling Leo*.

Presenting sponsors of the Stony Brook Film Festival are HBO, Suffolk County, Teachers Federal Credit Union, The Village Voice and WALK 97.5 Radio.

About Staller Center for the Arts

Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University's cultural showplace, is located in the center of campus. Staller Center has been the home of the Stony Brook Film Festival every summer since its beginnings, which started with classics and art films. Staller Center offers performances in dance, music, art, theatre, and film from around the world and is a cultural resource to the campus and community.

###

From: Julie Rulon Greene
Marketing and Public Relations
16th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival
July 21-30, 2011

Staller Center for the Arts
Stony Brook University
www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com
julie@stallercenter.com
(631) 632-7233