

For Immediate Release

Photo attached

This Isn't Funny, East Coast Premiere July 17 at 9:30 pm

With Paul Ashton and Katie Page

Pictured: Katie Page. Credit: Peter Borosh.

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**20th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival presented by Island Federal Credit Union
Brings the Best in New independent Film to Long Island, July 16-25, 2015**

Stony Brook, NY, June 2, 2015— The Stony Brook Film Festival is celebrating twenty years this summer. The Festival has been proud to showcase many films with actors who have gone on to successful careers: among them, Jeremy Renner, Kristen Stewart, Virginia Madsen and Elle Fanning.

Screened in Staller Center's Main Stage Theatre at Stony Brook University, the 20th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival presented by Island Federal Credit Union promises to entertain, enlighten and challenge. An outstanding international selection of new independent features, documentaries and shorts will be shown over ten evenings, from Thursday, July 16 through Saturday, July 25, with many premieres in the mix. Programming for the Festival has followed a popular format over the years, pairing short films with features.

The schedule of films is being announced today at www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com, when \$85 film festival passes, good for all films, go on sale, along with \$25 tickets for each of the receptions held on Opening and Closing Night. Individual movie tickets will be sold subject to availability beginning Monday, July 6. \$225 Gold Passes are available and include reserved seating in the Filmmakers' section and Opening and Closing Night party tickets. Single tickets to films are \$10 general admission, \$8 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students at www.stonybrookfilmfestival.com or by calling (631) 632-ARTS [2787] starting July 6.

Staller Center for the Arts is the producer of the Stony Brook Film Festival. Alan Inkles, founder and director of the Stony Brook Film Festival and also director of Staller Center notes, "Over ten days, festival audiences will be transported to Germany, the Netherlands, Israel, Mexico, Greece, Egypt, France, Canada, Iran, Belgium, England, Morocco and Algeria. And we have more American films than ever this year. Dramas, comedies and documentaries will be shown on our huge screen and many of the directors, cast and crew will attend for Q&A's following the films. The support of Stony Brook Film Festival's new presenting sponsor, Island Federal Credit Union, as well as other long-time supporters, has made the 20th Anniversary of the Stony Brook Film Festival an extra special celebration."

The Stony Brook Film Festival is highly competitive and selective. Thirty-four films (19 features and 15 shorts) were chosen out of more than 700 entries. With a no-entry fee policy thanks to sponsors, Stony Brook attracts new filmmakers as well as Indie veterans. This year the Stony Brook Film Festival presents one World premiere, eight U.S. premieres, nine East Coast premieres, and nine New York premieres in the program of thirty-four films.

Many alums of the film festival are returning with films this year. The short documentary **Coaching**

Colburn was created by Jeff Bemiss and his film students at Trinity College, with a story about a man with Fragile X Syndrome. Mr. Bemiss screened the film *The Book and the Rose* at Stony Brook in 2002. Menemsha Films returns with the film **Dough**, about a Jewish baker and his young Muslim apprentice, and Shooting Star of the Netherlands brings **Painkillers** to the Festival, a poignant story about a teenage musician. Producer of **To Life!**, Alice Brauner, was also the producer of Stony Brook's 2012 Audience Choice-Best Feature, *Wunderkinder*. Peter Miller of *AKA Doc Pomus* fame, the 2012 Grand Prize winner, brings a new documentary to Stony Brook Film Festival this year, the World Premiere of **Projections of America**. During World War II, short documentaries about American life were created by filmmakers led by Academy Award winning screenwriter Robert Riskin. The U.S. Office of War Information disseminated them to be shown to audiences around the world. *Projections of America* tells the story of the production.

Opening night brings a dramatic feature film from Algeria, **The Man from Oran**, with Lyes Salem, director, writer and star. In Arabic and French, it is a U.S. Premiere. Set largely in the years after Algeria gained independence from France, it explores the themes of friendship, idealism, politics and betrayal.

Closing Night screens **The Passion of Augustine**, a film from French Canada about a small convent school that has become a musical treasure. Mother Augustine is played by Céline Bonnier, who starred in the film *Mommy is at the Hairdresser's*, a feature at Stony Brook in 2012. Both films were directed by Léa Pool.

American Independent features include the romantic comedy, **This Isn't Funny**, starring Paul Ashton and Katie Page, who are the scriptwriters and co-producers. Paul Ashton directed the entertaining story about a stand up comedienne coping with an anxiety disorder. Feature film **Jackie & Ryan** stars Katherine Heigel and Ben Barnes, and is directed by Ami Canaan Mann, who was inspired by street musicians she met in Austin, Texas at South by Southwest Festival. **Jackie & Ryan** centers in the picturesque mountains of Ogden, Utah, where a musician and train hopper meets a former singer at a crossroads in her life. **Wildike**, written and directed by Frank Hall Green, stars Ella Purnell as a troubled teenager who is sent to live with her uncle in Alaska. Bruce Greenwood (*Star Trek, Mad Men*) and Brian Gerahy (*The Hurt Locker*) also star. Christine Vachon, film professor at Stony Brook Southampton's MFA in Film program, is among the producers of *Wildike*, along with her company Killer Films. Documentary features include **Projections of America** by Peter Miller and **The Best of Enemies**, a documentary about the television debates between William F. Buckley Jr. and Gore Vidal in 1968.

Triple threats - Writers/Actors/Producers

Audiences will see the many works of true indie spirit in which filmmakers do it all. Three films in the Festival have the actor, producer, and writer as one and the same. **The Man from Oran** by Lyes Salem, **This Isn't Funny** by Paul Ashton and Katie Page, and **The Challenger** by Kent Moran are ambitious films where their creators have a hand in all aspects of the film. For the documentary **Nefertiti's Daughters** writer/director/producer Mark Nickolas was also one of the Directors of Photography.

Expected to Attend

Lyes Salem of **The Man from Oran** will be attending the Thursday, July 16 Opening Night screening. **Painkillers** producers Maria Peters and Dave Schram of Shooting Star will be attending the Friday, July 17 screening. Paul Ashton and Katie Page of **This Isn't Funny** will be on board for Friday, July 17 as well. Saturday, July 18, the writer and director of **Henri Henri**, Martin Talbot, and actors Andres Trelles Turgeon and Sophie Desmarais will be attending the screening. **Jackie & Ryan's** Katherine Heigel and Ben Barnes have been invited to attend the Festival on Saturday, July 18, and the director Ami Canaan Mann is expected to attend. Sunday, July 19 the Festival will host **Nefertiti's Daughters** director Mark Nickolas.

On Sunday, July 19, the screening of **To Life** will have producer Alice Brauner on hand, along with Uwe Janson, the director. The film that follows it, **Wildlike**, will be represented by director Frank Hall Green. **Thicker than Paint** writer/director Maryam Sepehri is expected to attend the Festival for her film on Tuesday, July 21, as is Kent Moran of **The Challenger**. Peter Miller will represent his documentary

Projections of America, a U.S. premiere on Wednesday, July 22, and the director and cast members of **One for the Road** are expected to attend Stony Brook from Mexico. On closing night, Saturday, July 25, Céline Bonnier of **The Passion of Augustine** will be attending.

About Staller Center for the Arts

Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook University's cultural showplace, has been the home of the Stony Brook Film Festival every summer since its beginnings. Staller Center offers hundreds of performances annually in dance, music, art, theatre, and film from around the world. The 2015-16 season will include live performances starting in October with the Emerson Quartet and ending in May with Paul Taylor Dance. The March 2016 Staller Center Gala star is Natalie Cole in an evening of music and memories.

About Island Federal Credit Union

The 60-year-old Long Island financial institution, Island Federal Credit Union, is sponsoring the Stony Brook Film Festival for the first time this year. Island signed an innovative, campus-wide 10-year partnership with Stony Brook University, which includes branches and ATMs on campus, support for the Stony Brook Children's Hospital, and naming rights of the renovated Island Federal Credit Union Arena, home to Stony Brook's Division 1 Men's and Women's basketball. Island is sponsoring the nationally recognized Stony Brook Film Festival, supporting the Long Island State Veterans Home, and funding educational programs and equipment in the School of Business, as well as programs involving the Stony Brook Alumni Association.

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