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RECAP: 2015 GOLD COAST INT'L FILM FESTIVAL

Fifth Anniversary Festival Spotlighted Award-Winning Films and Hollywood's Best with Movies and Events from November 9 – 15, 2015

The 2015 Gold Coast International Film Festival took place November 9 – 15, 2015 in venues throughout the north shore of Long Island, and as always it was an exciting week of films, parties, filmmaker Q&As, and glamour attended in droves by a cross section of communities and cultures. Once again many award winning actors and directors joined us including multiple Academy Award winners and nominees, Emmy winners, Golden Globe nominees and Sundance and Hamptons Film Festival winners.

Here are the Gold Coast Intl Film Festival 2015 Winners:

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature

Mustang

Audience Award for Best Documentary

Mind/Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw
*We Are Twisted F*cking Sister*

Audience Award for Best Short Film

Grounded

Jury Award for Best Short Film

Subway Love

Tender Stories No. 1

Jury Award for Best Student Short Film

The Present

This, the fifth anniversary of the Festival, featured over 60 films and dozens of filmmakers at screenings and events in venues throughout the Town of North Hempstead region, including Soundview Cinemas in Port Washington, the Bow Tie Cinemas in Great Neck/Port Washington/ Manhasset/ Roslyn, the Gold Coast Arts Center in Great Neck and the campus of LIU Post.

The Festival kicked off with an intimate conversation with award-winning writer, director and producer **Morgan Spurlock** ("*Super Size Me*") held on the campus of LIU Post. This event, moderated by Comedian Bill McCuddy, included a special screening of Spurlock's new short film **CRAFTED**.

Attending Filmmakers included: award-winning director/producer/screenwriter, Morgan Spurlock; actor Lou Diamond Phillips, star of Showtime's *Homeland*, Navid Negahban; Patricia Rigen, director of the new Warner Brothers film *The 33*, starring Antonio Banderas, Juliette Binoche and Lou Diamond Phillips; award winning filmmakers Michael Cuesta (Emmy winning Exec. Producer of *Homeland*) Rick Goldsmith (two time Academy Award nominee), Yael Melamede (Academy Award winner) and Andrew Horn; WNBA superstar Chamique Holdsclaw; several members of the band Twisted Sister who joined us for the US premiere of a new film about their rise to fame, Emmy-winning journalist Kristin Thorne – plus many more filmmakers and special guests such as Michael Landers, the Long Island ping-pong champion featured in the film *Top Spin*.

Films this year showcased Hollywood's best actors including **Richard Gere, Oliver Platt, Rene Russo, Jason Sudeikis, Rebecca Hall, Christopher Walken, Amber Heard** and many more industry stars. Award-winning films from the world's most prestigious festivals (Cannes, Toronto, Sundance, Tribeca) were screened, plus over 25 incredible short films, with Q&As with visiting shorts filmmakers. Once again we offered FREE tickets to all screenings for veterans and current military personnel, courtesy of 1-800-Flowers.com and had a sold out "Family Film Day" at Gold Coast Arts Center. Also this year, for the first time we showcased the best in young filmmakers with our Young Filmmakers Program! Additionally, filmmakers and attendees were able to take part in a special "NY Loves Film" round table discussion with the NY State Film Office as well.

For more information on the festival and year round programming, visit www.goldcoastfilmfestival.org.

About the Gold Coast International Film Festival

Over the past five years, the festival has brought the latest Hollywood hits and Indie favorites to standing room only audiences throughout the fabled Gold Coast of Long Island. Add A-list celebrities and unforgettable events to the mix and it's easy to see why GCIFF has become the "go to" Festival for film buffs and the public (it is also the last major film festival on the East Coast before Awards season). The Festival is produced by the Gold Coast Arts Center.

Previous honorees and special guests of the festival and the Gold Coast Arts Center include film industry VIPs **Francis Ford Coppola, Hugh Grant, Baz Luhrmann, Brian Dennehy, Paul Sorvino, Ed Burns, Bruce Dern, Isabella Rossellini, Eli Wallach,**

Gabriel Byrne, Bill Plympton, Phil Donahue, Phylicia Rashaad, Joan Allen, Jay McInerney and Michael Cuesta, as well as composer **Morton Gould**, artists **James Rosenquist, Oleg Cassini, Edwina Sandys and Bob Gruen**, comedian **Susie Essman**, Broadway stars **Kelli O'Hara, Melissa Errico and Savion Glover**, and 4-time Oscar winner for production and costume design **Catherine Martin**.

Sponsors and partners of this year's GCIFF include founding partners the Town of North Hempstead and Douglas Elliman Real Estate, longstanding major partners LIU Post and Nassau County IDA as well as AMC Networks, Deluxe Entertainment Services Group, Panavision, A.L. Sarroff Fund, Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, J.M. Kaplan Fund, The Katz Center of North Shore –LIJ Health System, LVR Rental, Samar Hospitality, The Andrew Hotel, Stella Artois and The Amsterdam at Harborside as well as 1-800-Flowers.com, WLIW21, New York Women in Film & Television, Anton Publications, Blank Slate Media, Care Connect and many others.

About the Gold Coast Arts Center

The Gold Coast Arts Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts through education, exhibition, performance and outreach. For over 20 years we have brought the arts and arts in education experiences to tens of thousands of people throughout our region through our 1) School for the Arts, which offers year-round classes in all visual and performing arts to students of all ages and abilities, (2) Free public art gallery, (3) Concert and lecture series, (4) Outreach programs, which each year bring artist residencies, after-school programs, school assemblies, teacher training workshops and parent-child workshops to students, senior citizens, teachers and others in underserved communities throughout our region, (5) Year round film screening and discussion series and (6) Gold Coast International Film Festival, now in its 5th year. The Arts Center is an affiliate of the John F Kennedy Center for the for the Performing Arts: Partners in Education Program, and National Gallery of Art, both located in Washington DC.