

# HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
ANNOUNCES THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
12TH ANNUAL SCREENWRITERS' LAB

ALSO ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENT OF  
THE ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION  
\$75,000 DISCRETIONARY FUND

East Hampton, NY (April 8, 2013) - The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) will host its 12th annual Screenwriters' Lab co-sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation April 12 – 14 in East Hampton, NY.

The Screenwriters' Lab has screenwriters meet for one-on-one mentoring sessions with established screenwriters, directors and producers. Past Screenwriters' Lab mentors include Michael Cunningham (THE HOURS, EVENING); James Vanderbilt (ZODIAC); Mark Heyman (BLACK SWAN); Hawk Ostby (CHILDREN OF MEN); Jon Robin Baitz (OTHER DESERT CITIES, THE SUBSTANCE OF FIRE); Ryan Fleck & Anna Boden (HALF NELSON); Whit Stillman (METROPOLITAN, THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO); Ira Sachs (FORTY SHADES OF BLUE, THE DELTA); Jeff Sharp (Producer, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME); J.D. Zeik (RONIN); Maggie Greenwald (SONGCATCHER); and Dylan Kidd (ROGER DODGER).

These mentors advise the screenwriters on how to develop their scripts and move their projects closer to production. HIFF provides an environment in which participants are able to share and discuss their projects during the day, and in the evening meet with members of the local artistic community, HIFF board members, and friends of the Festival. HIFF is proud that female writers comprise at least half of the selected writers for the 3rd year in a row. In the last few years, 3 projects from the Lab have gone on to be produced. These projects include Destin Cretton's SHORT TERM 12, which recently won both the Audience and Grand Jury Prize at the South by Southwest Film Festival, and Justin Schwartz' THE DISCOVERERS which had its world premiere at HIFF and continues to play at Festivals around the world. Claudia Myers' film FORT BLISS is currently in Post Production.

“The Screenwriters’ Lab is one of the highlights of the year for us as an organization, allowing a wide range of celebrated talent in the industry to engage with the next wave of artists that will help to shape the landscape for years to come ,” states Artistic Director, David Nugent. “The Lab is the perfect example of the sort creative energy that the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation helps to discover, support and develop.

Following the Lab, the Festival in October assists our selected Screenwriters with continued connection to both important industry contacts and the public, by showcasing a scene reading from their screenplays by established actors.

HIFF is also proud to announce that Casey Cooper Johnson’s UNMANNED will receive \$75,000 as part of Discretionary Fund through the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. In UNMANNED, an Air Force drone operator conducts airstrikes in Afghanistan by remote from a base in America, returning each day to his wife and son in the Las Vegas suburbs. But when the manhunt for a high value target leads to a disastrous mistake, can he continue to cope with the surreal commute between family and war, and clear himself from guilt and blame? UNMANNED is currently in the packaging and pre-production stage, with casting and location scouting ongoing and a plan for rolling cameras in late Summer/early Fall 2013.

“We are excited to partner with HIFF in selecting UNMANNED as the recipient of this discretionary production grant, awarded to help the most promising science and technology feature project get into production,” said Doron Weber, Vice President, Programs at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. “UNMANNED, the first in-depth portrayal of the psychological cost of eliminating human targets from remote, disconnected locations—both a capability and a liability of modern technology and the new 21<sup>st</sup> century battlefield—is a project which also exemplifies the Sloan film development pipeline or “farm system” at work. UNMANNED, previously supported through Sloan’s partners at The American Film Institute, Film Independent and Tribeca Film Institute, will get a major boost towards its 2013 production date from this generous HIFF grant.”

According to Executive Director, Anne Chaisson, “Again, thanks to the vital support of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Screenwriters’ Lab, festival staged screenplay readings that attract the likes of Oscar winners Melissa Leo and Fisher Stevens, and the Discretionary Award for UNMANNED provide much needed assistance to propel these science and technology screenplays into production.”

#### 2013 Screenwriters’ Lab Mentors

1) Oscar-nominated screenwriter OREN MOVERMAN is the director of RAMPART, which he co-wrote with novelist James Ellroy, starring Woody Harrelson, Sigourney Weaver, Robin

Wright, Anne Heche, Cynthia Nixon, and more. Moverman's directorial debut, *THE MESSENGER*, written with Alessandro Camon was nominated for the Best original Screenplay Academy Award in 2010. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay and the Peace Award at the Berlin International Film Festival. The film was also nominated for Best screenplay and Best first feature at the 2010 Independent Spirit Awards. Upcoming projects include: *LOVE AND MERCY* and *THE MAN WHO HAD ALL THE LUCK*, O. SELZNICK, which he will also direct for HBO Films, and *WILLIAM BURROUGHS' QUEER*.

2) LISA MUSKAT's first feature film as Producer was David Gordon Green's debut film, *GEORGE WASHINGTON*. Along with her continued work with Green, Lisa has produced films with Ramin Bahrani (*MAN PUSH CART*, *CHOP SHOP*) Gary Hawkins (*THE ROUGH SOUTH OF LARRY BROWN*) Arielle Javitch (*LOOK, STRANGER*) David Wike (*OUT THERE*), Jeff Nichols (*SHOTGUN STORIES*), Todd Rohal (*NATURE CALLS*) and Craig Zobel (*COMPLIANCE*), with premieres at Sundance, SxSW, Berlin, Toronto, Venice and the Cannes film festivals. Her next two features as producer are *PRINCE AVALANCHE* and *JOE*, based on the book "Joe", written by Larry Brown, both directed by David Gordon Green. Lisa is the recipient of the Sundance Producing Fellowship and was named by both *Variety* and *Deadline Hollywood* as a "Producer to Watch".

3) ANDREW BIENEN is the co-writer of the Academy Award winning movie, *BOYS DON'T CRY*. He teaches screenwriting at the Columbia University Graduate Film Program where he is an Associate Professor of Professional Practice and he has also taught at La Femis (Paris), the New School, and the University of Virginia. Other screenplays include *SILENT STAR* (in collaboration with Kimberly Peirce ) for Dreamworks and New Line Cinema, and *THE RUNNER*, for Paul Giamatti's company, Touchy-Feely Films. He has an M.F.A. in Screenwriting from Columbia where his thesis screenplay *WANKERS* won the award for Best Student Screenplay in 1996. He worked as a story consultant at Miramax Films.

4) BILL COLLAGE and his writing partner Adam Cooper have written on 31 feature films for studios, as well as sold five shows to network and cable television. His upcoming projects include *MOSES*, directed by Sir Ridley Scott, starring Christian Bale; *THE GENERAL*, directed by Darren Aronofsky; *DOC HOLLIDAY*, directed by Ron Howard (a one-hour HBO series); and *CLEOPATRA* (a one-hour series for BBCAmerica). His produced work includes *TOWER HEIST*, *GET SMART*, *FUN WITH DICK & JANE*, *ACCEPTED*, *WRONG TURN*, *NEW YORK MINUTE*, *I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS* and *RANSOM*. He is currently adapting *THE SUBMISSION* by Amy Waldman as a feature film for director Noam Murrow; and writing an original mini-series for Fox Television on the life of Allan Pinkerton.

## 2013 Screenwriters' Lab Participants, Screenplays and Project Descriptions:

### 1) CAVEH ZAHEDI and 2) ARNOLD BARKUS– THE GIFT

New York City, 1962. Artist Joseph Cornell, for want of inspiration, has postponed his next gallery show yet again. But a chance encounter with a coffee shop waitress, the young Joyce Hunter, stirs his imagination. This film charts the true-life relationship between the chaste reclusive artist and his unruly muse.

#### Writers' bios:

Caveh Zahedi is an independent writer/director whose most recent feature, *THE SHEIK AND I*, was picked up for distribution by Factory 25. His previous film, *I AM A SEX ADDICT* won the 2005 Gotham Award for "Best Film Not Playing At A Theater Near You." The film was subsequently picked up for distribution by IFC Films. His previous feature, *IN THE BATHTUB OF THE WORLD*, aired on the IFC Channel. His second feature, *I DON'T HATE LAS VEGAS*, won the Critics' Prize at the Rotterdam Film Festival in 1994. His first feature, *A LITTLE STIFF*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 1991.

Arnold Barkus has written and directed two feature comedies: *WADECK'S MOTHER'S FRIEND'S SON* and the French language *TEMPÊTE DANS UN VERRE D'EAU* (*TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT*). As a screenwriter, he co-authored, *AVÊ*, with director Konstantin Bojanov (Cannes Film Festival, 2011), which won 20 international festival awards including Best Screenplay at Fantasporto, Portugal. He is series co-creator of *HARD APPLE*, an animated dramatic TV series based on the crime fiction of Jerome Charyn, in development for Canal Plus, France.

### 3) SARA COLANGELO – LITTLE ACCIDENTS

In a small town shattered by a devastating coal mine accident, a new crime draws together a surviving miner, the wife of an implicated mine executive, and 14 year-old boy in a web of secrets.

#### Writer's Bio:

Sara Colangelo is a writer/director whose films have screened at festivals both nationally and internationally. She is currently in pre-production on her first narrative feature, *LITTLE ACCIDENTS*. Inspired by her award-winning short film of the same title, the film explores tragedy and redemption within an American coal mining community. During its development the project was supported by the Sundance Writers and Directors Labs, and garnered such honors as the 2011 Adrienne Shelley Foundation Award, the 2012 Indian Paintbrush Fellowship, and 2012 Annenberg Institute Fellowship. Sara was named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film" in July 2010. She graduated

with a B.A. in History from Brown University and received her M.F.A. at NYU's Graduate Film Division. She currently resides in New York.

#### 4) DAVID SCHWAB – FRANCIS TURNBULL

15 year old Francis Turnbull is the size of an 8 year old and none of his doctors can't explain why. The year is 1963 and his parent's marriage is imploding, his younger brother Eugene is turning into a petty thief and arsonist, and Francis has just learned of a new experimental drug that could make him grow more than a foot. To participate in the trial, all he has to do is gather 365 fresh human pituitary glands.

##### Writer's Bio:

David Schwab is a New York based screenwriter. A graduate of the Columbia University Graduate Film Program, he has written a number of historical dramas including MR. VERNER'S PYGM, a true story about Ota Benga, the Mbuti pygmy, exhibited at the Bronx Zoo and KO'OLAU, based on the true story of a Hawaiian diagnosed with leprosy who resisted the government's attempts to exile him to the Moloka'i leper colony. KO'OLAU is currently in development with the producer Chuck Weinstock. Schwab recently completed his first animated feature for the Australian company Animal Logic.

#### 5) JOAN STEIN SCHIMKE and 6) AVERIE STORCK - THE BURIED LIFE

A kleptomaniac archaeologist is brilliant at digging up the past but runs from her own until her need to succeed lands her deep in the buried secrets of her own family history.

##### Writer's Bio:

Joan Stein Schimke was nominated for an Academy Award® for her short film ONE DAY CROSSING. The film won several other awards including the Student Academy Award® Gold Medal, the Director's Guild of America (DGA) Best Woman Student Filmmaker, and Best Director, National Board of Review. Other directing credits include LAW AND ORDER and the short film SOLIDARITY which screened at over a dozen festivals, including the New York Film Festival and the Expression en Corto Film Festival where it was awarded Best Short. Other short films include BEHIND CLOSED DOOR, FAULT LINE, and REAP THE WHIRLWIND.

Averie Storck earned her M.F.A. in film from Columbia University. Her thesis film, LIVE AT FIVE, which she wrote and directed, won several awards including the New Line Cinema Development Award, Best Live Action Short at the Tahoe/Reno Film Festival and Best Short at the AOF International Film Festival. The film screened at over 30 film festivals around the country, including the Palm Springs Festival of Short Films and the Austin Film Festival. Other directing credits include the short film SHOWER OF HAPPINESS, which won

Best Drama at GIAA International Film Festival. Screenplay writing credits include the comedy EGGS, which was chosen as a Faculty Selects Screenplay of the Columbia University Film Festival. Averie is currently an Adjunct Professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design where she teaches Acting for the Camera.

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The 2013 Hamptons International Film Festival, taking place October 10-14, is now open for submissions online through Withoutabox (<https://www.withoutabox.com/login/1160>). Our Early Bird deadline is April 8th. Now entering its 21st year, HIFF continues to thrive as a prestigious forum for independent and international film and is an Academy Award-qualifying festival for short live-action and animated films. The Festival is held for five days in early-October in venues stretching across Long Island, and attracts roughly 25,000 visitors annually. At least twenty countries are represented in the slate of roughly 140 films that are showcased each year, with an awards package worth over \$80,000. The festival continues to highlight new voices in cinema, as well as represent a bellwether to the awards season. The 20th edition of HIFF screened 3 eventual Best Picture nominees (ARGO; AMOUR; and SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK), a record 4 of the 5 Oscar Foreign Language nominees (AMOUR; KON-TIKI; WAR WITCH; and A ROYAL AFFAIR), 2 of the Best Documentary nominees (HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE and SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN), and a record 6 Short Film nominees (PAPERMAN; KINGS POINT; MONDAYS AT RACINE; HEAD OVER HEELS; ASAD; and OPEN HEART). HIFF has also screened the eventual Best Picture Winner in 4 of the last 5 years.

HIFF collaborates throughout the year with arts organizations both on Long Island, and in New York City. In recent years, HIFF's SummerDocs program at Guild Hall, hosted by Alec Baldwin, has become a highlight of the summer season in the Hamptons. Other recent collaborations with local institutions include screening series and events with the Parrish Art Museum, and the Silas Marder Gallery. The festival also is proud to have collaborated on recent events in New York City at MoMA (The Museum of Modern Art) and The Paley Center for Media.

The New York based Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, founded in 1934, makes grants in science, technology, and economic performance. Sloan's program in public understanding of science and technology, directed by Doron Weber, supports books, radio, film, television, theater and new media to reach a wide, non-specialized audience.

Sloan's film program encourages filmmakers to create more realistic and accurate stories about science and technology and to challenge existing stereotypes about scientists and engineers in the popular imagination. Over the past decade, the Foundation has partnered with some of the top film schools in the country - AFI, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, NYU,

UCLA, and USC - and established annual awards in screenwriting and film production and an annual best-of-the-best Student Grand Jury Prize administered through the Tribeca Film Institute. Sloan also supports Screenplay Development Programs at Sundance, the Hamptons International Film Festival, Film Independent, and Tribeca and has developed such film projects as Future Weather, a coming of age story about a young woman who finds personal meaning in science, starring Lili Taylor and Amy Madigan (which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival); Valley of Saints and Robot and Frank both of which premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and shared the Sloan Feature Film Prize; A Birder's Guide to Everything which will premiere at this year's Tribeca Film Festival; and Computer Chess, which premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and will be released in theatres this summer.

The Foundation awards annual Science and Technology Feature Film Prizes at Sundance and Hamptons and has honored feature films such as The Diving Bell and the Butterfly, Grizzly Man, Obselidia, Agora, and Another Earth. Sloan also partners with Ensemble Studio Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club in support of new science plays such as Isaac's Eye about the rivalry between Isaac Newton and Robert Hooke and the upcoming world premiere of The Explorers Club, a witty satire about gender bias in science. For more information about the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation please visit [www.sloan.org](http://www.sloan.org).

**HIFF Media Contacts:**

**FRANK PR**

**(646-861-0843)**

Clare Anne Darragh

[clareanne@frankpublicity.com](mailto:clareanne@frankpublicity.com)

Tiffany Malloy

[tiffany@frankpublicity.com](mailto:tiffany@frankpublicity.com)

**Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Media Contacts:**

**SUNSHINE SACHS**

Adam Berkowitz

[berkowitz@sunshinesachs.com](mailto:berkowitz@sunshinesachs.com)