

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SIXTH ANNUAL SummerDocs SERIES PREMIERES WITH LIFE ITSELF ON JUNE 21ST AND KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON, JULY 25TH

**Series Presenter Alec Baldwin returns for conversations with
Chaz Ebert for Life Itself and Al Hicks for Keep On Keepin' On**

East Hampton, NY (May 21, 2014) – The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) 6th Annual SummerDocs series is once again presenting East End audiences the best in documentary filmmaking. Director Steve James' (*Hoop Dreams*) LIFE ITSELF launches the series at Guild Hall in East Hampton on Saturday, June 21st at 8pm. Alec Baldwin will lead the conversation with Roger Ebert's widow Chaz Ebert. KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON screens on July 25th, also at Guild Hall at 7:30pm, with director Al Hicks in attendance for the conversation as well.

"Steve James' entertaining and inspiring story about Roger Ebert is a fascinating look at a film critic who truly helped to shape our culture," said series presenter Alec Baldwin. "Al Hicks' KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON is a moving portrait of not only Clark Terry's legacy, but of how one person's mentorship can make a difference."

"After another year in which a SummerDocs selection has gone on to win the Oscar for Best Documentary, we are excited to bring what we see as some of the most exciting voices in documentary films to the Hamptons," said Artistic Director David Nugent.

Acclaimed director Steve James (*Hoop Dreams*, *The Interrupters*) and Executive Producers Martin Scorsese (*The Departed*, *Raging Bull*) and Steven Zaillian (*Schindler's List*, *Moneyball*) present LIFE ITSELF, a documentary film that recounts the inspiring and entertaining life of world-renowned film critic and social commentator Roger Ebert – a story that is by turns personal, wistful, funny, painful, and transcendent. The film will be released by Magnolia Pictures on July 4th.

In his melodic debut KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON, Australian director Al Hicks spent four years following the charming and sometimes poignant mentorship between jazz-legend Clark Terry and blind piano prodigy Justin Kaulflin, during a pivotal moment in each of their lives. At eighty-nine years old, 'CT' has played alongside Duke Ellington and Count Basie; his pupils include Miles Davis and Quincy Jones, but his most unlikely friendship is with Justin, a 23-year-old with uncanny talent but debilitating nerves. As Justin prepares for a competition that could jumpstart his budding career, CT's failing health threatens his own. Beautifully nostalgic with a reverence for the importance of finding

your own sound, KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON celebrates an iconic musician while introducing one of equal vibrancy. It is a mentoring tale as inspirational as its subjects. The film is produced by seven time Academy Award® nominee Quincy Jones and Paula DuPre' Pesmen (producer of the Oscar winning THE COVE). The film was recently awarded two prizes at the Tribeca Film Festival - Best New Documentary Director (Al Hicks) and the Audience Award (Documentary). RADiUs-TWC film will be releasing the film.

Support for the screening of KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON is graciously provided by the Wall Street Journal.

Tickets for the screenings are available for purchase at www.guildhall.org or at the Guild Hall Box Office.

The 22nd Annual Hamptons International Film Festival will be held over Columbus Day Weekend, October 9th – 13th 2014.

A limited number of Founders Passes are currently on sale for 15% off until Labor Day.

HIFF greatly appreciates the continued year-round support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Support for the SummerDocs series is also generously provided by Beach Magazine.

ABOUT THE HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Hamptons International Film Festival (HIFF) is a year-round 501(c)3 non-profit organization with events, screenings, film workshops, comprehensive summer programs and an annual film festival each October. The Festival is the premiere film event on New York State's east end, and is an intimate showcase of some of the year's best offerings in contemporary cinema from around the world. With cash and in-kind prizes handed out totaling more than \$190,000, HIFF continues to attract some of the best films of the year. Selections from all of our programs continue to play an important role during awards season. 2013 marked the 5th time in the last 6 years that a film at the Festival has become the eventual Best Picture winner at the Oscars, making HIFF the only Festival on the East Coast with such a distinction. In those 6 years, films screened in the festival have received 150 Oscar nominations.

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