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Lone Star International Film Festival Fort Worth in Sundance Square Announces Opening Night Screening and Recent Additions to Lineup

Lone Star Film Society and Festival Unveil New Brand Identity

FORT WORTH, Texas – Nov. 5, 2010 – The Lone Star Film Society (LSFS), has announced the opening film and additional roster of films for the 2010 Lone Star International Film Festival to be held in Sundance Square in downtown Fort Worth, Nov. 10-14. Opening the festival on Wednesday night will be the highly acclaimed **“Marwencol.”** Additionally, four films have been added to the lineup: **“China Town,” “The Travelogues,” “Dig”** and **“Pickin’ & Grinnin’.”** The festival will also now feature a special screening of **“The Blind Side”** with writer and director John Lee Hancock in attendance. The festival will conclude with the screening of a much-anticipated film, still being kept a secret. The secret final film screening will be revealed during the festival. (Film synopses below.)

“We have been working very hard to procure one of this year’s most talked about films, **“Marwencol,”** and are pleased to announce that it will be the opening film for this year’s festival. It is extremely rare for any film to receive the near unanimous praise this film has enjoyed and we are thrilled to bring it to Fort Worth for its regional premiere,” said Alec Jhangiani, LSFS Artistic Director. “These additional films include experimental, comedic, and dramatic achievements that have been recognized at festivals such as Tribeca and Austin. Closing night the festival will screen a secret, but highly buzzed about film. We can only mention that it features one of the funniest men working today and was produced by one of Fort Worth’s own.”

“Marwencol” has been given positive reviews by countless critics, from outlets including the Huffington Post, Entertainment Weekly and the New York Times, who chose it as a NYT Critic’s Pick and said the film was “a fascinating journey from near-death to active life.” A sampling of what the critics are saying about this powerful film:

“Staggeringly good.” – *Realscreen*

“I can barely describe the wonders of **“MARWECOL”** – *Entertainment Weekly*

“The uplifting story of how one man turned tragedy into triumph.” – *NY Post*

“A truly beautiful work of art.” – *Gordon and the Whale*

“You’ve never seen anything like it before.” – *Filmmaker Magazine*

Screening times and locations for these films are:

“Marwencol” – Opening night – Wednesday, Nov. 10 7:30 p.m. at AMC Palace Theatre 8

“Dig” – Sunday, Nov. 14 5:30 p.m. at Four Day Weekend

“Pickin’ & Grinnin’” – Friday, Nov. 12 10 p.m. at AMC Palace Theatre 4 theatre

“Travelogues” and **“China Town”** – Sunday, Nov. 14 2:30 p.m. at AMC Palace Theatre 1
Date, time and location for **“The Blind Side”** will be announced next week.

For additional information on screening times, dates and locations, please visit www.lsiff.com.

Screening passes and individual tickets can now be purchased online at www.lsiff.com. Individual tickets will be available at the ticket box office beginning on Nov. 9th at noon.

The Lone Star Film Society also announced that it has unveiled new brand identities for the society and the Lone Star International Film Festival. The new logos, which are closely related and use bold blocks of color to distinguish between the two, help to position both the festival and the society for future growth and development.

“Our intention was to create a brand identity that would help to represent the relationship between the society and the festival and demonstrate the forward progression and artistic focus that each have come to represent,” said Dennis Bishop, director of the Lone Star Film Society.

Imaginaría Creative handled the design work for the new logos.

FILM SYOPSES

MARWENCOL – USA/*English*; Dir. by Jeff Malmberg – After being beaten into a brain-damaging coma by five men outside a bar, Mark builds a 1/6th scale World War II-era town in his backyard. Mark populates the town he dubs "Marwencol" with dolls representing his friends and family and creates life-like photographs detailing the town's many relationships and dramas. Playing in the town and photographing the action helps Mark to recover his hand-eye coordination and deal with the psychic wounds of the attack. When Mark and his photographs are discovered, a prestigious New York gallery sets up an art show. Suddenly Mark's homemade therapy is deemed "art", forcing him to choose between the safety of his fantasy life in Marwencol and the real world that he's avoided since the attack.

CHINA TOWN – USA, China; Dir. by Lucy Raven – Created entirely with animated sequences of still photographs and ambient sounds recorded on location, multimedia artist, Lucy Raven's, innovative editing technique combines tens of thousands of individual images with varying frame rates in this experimental video documenting the global production of copper from Utah to China.

THE TRAVELOGUES – USA/*English*; Dir. by Dustin Thompson – “The Travelogues” is a collection of short films that document the life of an unseen wanderer. Each travelogue creates an abstract, experiential understanding of his world. Through “The Travelogues,” he invites the viewer to explore his wanderlust, his encounters with tourism, and his transient relationships. *Official Selection: 2010 Tribeca Film Festival, Black Maria Film and Video Festival and Athens Film and Video Festival.*

DIG – USA/*English, Spanish*; Dir. By Stephen Belyeu – This award winning film follows a young man's return home to South Texas to attend his father's funeral. Haunted by his father's past, he digs for answers – leading to more questions in this dramatic (with a pinch of supernatural) story about family and forgiveness.

PICKIN' & GRINNIN' – USA/*English*; Dir. By Jon Gries – This multiple award-winning comedic feature follows two down and out brothers, from a long legacy of losers, giving their dream of musical stardom one last chance. Driving their '76 Winnebago Brave from California to Nashville, this musical road trip brings home why they started playing music and what it means to be a brother.

THE BLIND SIDE – USA/*English*; Written and Dir. By John Lee Hancock – Sandra Bullock won an

Oscar for this big hearted, Oscar nominated bio-pic about homeless, African-American teenager, Michael "Big Mike" Oher being taken into the fold of a well-to-do southern white family and how it changes all of their lives for the better culminating in his successful NFL draft.

About The Lone Star Film Society

The Lone Star Film Society exists to preserve and present the art of the moving image and examine its influence on world culture. LSFS, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, achieves these goals and engenders visual literacy by cultivating an appreciation of the visual arts, supporting film initiatives in the community and building the recognition and status of Fort Worth, and of Texas in filmmaking. The Lone Star Film Society is host of the Lone Star International Film Festival, Fort Worth in Sundance Square. The festival highlights the very best in independent filmmaking from around the world. The festival has honored such filmmakers as Martin Sheen, T-Bone Burnett, Bill Paxton, Sidney Lumet, Melonie Diaz and Fred Durst. This year's festival will be held November 10 – 14, 2010. For more information, visit www.lonestarfilmsociety.com.

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