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## Lone Star International Film Festival in Fort Worth's Sundance Square Announces Films and Introduces Interest Categories

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – Oct. 18, 2011 – The Lone Star Film Society (LSFS) is excited to release additional films and introduce film categories for the 2011 Lone Star International Film Festival in Sundance Square, Fort Worth Nov. 9 – 13. The festival created five new film categories so the public can easily identify and view films that appeal to their interest.

“An essential part of our mission is not only to bring films like these to Fort Worth, but also to make sure people see them. I think there is still a misconception about independent film that can be intimidating to some movie seekers. This year we’re trying new ways to engage the community and encourage them to come out and explore cutting edge films. Having films divided into special interest categories will allow audiences to more easily identify new films that align with their interests,” Kelley Loyd, Lone Star Film Society Community Relations Coordinator, said.

Genre categories for the 2011 Lone Star Festival include:

- Romance
  - [\*Silver Tongues\*](#)
  - [\*A Little Closer\*](#)
  - *The Mayor*
  - *Natural Selection*
  - *Target*
- Comedy
  - [\*Searching for Sonny\*](#)
  - *High Road*
  - [\*Ordinary Family\*](#)
  - *Butter*
  - *The Collaborator*
- Late night (TBA)
  - Piper Laurie Presents *Carrie*
  - *Comin' at Ya 3D*
  - *The Innkeepers*
- Award Season Buzz
  - [\*Coriolanus\*](#)
  - [\*Pariah\*](#)
  - [\*The Bully Project\*](#)
  - [\*We Need to Talk About Kevin\*](#)
  - *Rampart*
  - [\*The Turin Horse\*](#)
- Soundtracks
  - [\*The Artist\*](#)
  - *Kevin and All I Know: The Castle Sessions*
  - *Pariah*

(See synopses below.)

The Lone Star Film Festival suggests purchasing a [Create Your Playlist Movie Six Pack](#), to receive two tickets to three movies. Throughout the festival, Lone Star will host more than 60 screenings of more than 40 films from around the world. For a complete list of films in each category visit [www.lisiff.com](http://www.lisiff.com).

Stay up to date with The Lone Star 2011 festival by liking Lone Star on [Facebook](#) and following Lone Star on Twitter [@LoneStarFilmSoc](#).

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### **About Lone Star International Film Festival:**

In its fifth year, the Lone Star International Film Festival (LSIFF) Fort Worth in Sundance Square is an annual event hosted by the Lone Star Film Society. The festival seeks to uncover and amass emerging films, talent, trends, production methods and distribution models that will shape the future of the independent film industry. LSIFF supports and accelerates new paradigms of alternative distribution by creating a forum for undiscovered, experimental talent and thought leaders to share ideas on the changing landscape of production and distribution. LSIFF has honored filmmakers that include Martin Sheen, T Bone Burnett, Jeff Bridges, Bill Paxton, Sidney Lumet, Melonie Diaz and Peter Bogdanovich. For more information visit, [lonestarfilmsociety.com](http://lonestarfilmsociety.com)

### **Romance**

*Five Time Champion*, written and directed by Berndt Mader. Young scientist, Julius, researches the asexual reproduction of worms and his natural curiosity leads him to discover inconvenient truths about those around him. While witnessing his mother's infidelity and suspecting his grandfather of the same, he also restless with his father's mysterious departure years ago. How can Julius hold a family together while also pursuing a relationship of his own?

*Silver Tongues* written and directed by Simon Arthur. *Silver Tongues* follows a couple, Gerry and Joan, who use their talent for acting and performance as part of a dark game. Driving from town to town, the two lovers don different personas to deceive and destroy the lives of the people in their path. But each manipulation begins to take its toll. Soon the performances spiral out of control, and the game itself threatens their very relationship.

*A Little Closer*, Written and Directed by Matthew Petock. In the forgotten corners of rural Virginia, Sheryl struggles to balance her work as a housekeeper and raising her two sons, fifteen year-old Marc and eleven year-old Stephen. Hoping to meet the love of her life and bring home a father for her boys, she frequents a depressing, weekly mixer for the towns aging singles set. Meanwhile, Marc is desperate to lose his virginity, and spends his days working at a used car lot. And his brother Stephen, in the throes of sexual discovery, becomes infatuated with his schoolteacher while struggling to win the approval of a group of peers who adamantly detest her. As we journey with the family through their stagnant summer days, *A Little Closer* examines the disparate and nuanced states of sexuality as well as the role familial influence can play within a disconnected emotional landscape of rural America. Director Matthew Petock offers a lyrical portrait of both small-town woes and a fragmented family, delivering a startlingly honest film that captures, at once, the singularities and similarities of adolescent and middle-aged sexual urges.

*The Mayor*, Written and Directed by Jared Scheib. Scheib tells the story of Sam Berger, an 88-year-old tailchaser from Brooklyn living life to the fullest in a retirement community in Texas. As the local gossip wheel and a mini-celebrity there, Sam is known by his fellow residents as the Mayor because of his charm, care, and charisma. But when his latest romance hits the rocks, the Mayor is put to the

test, and in the process he demonstrates that life in old age can be just as alive a time in one's life as any other!

*Natural Selection*, Written and Directed by Linda White. A barren Christian housewife, leads a sheltered existence in suburban Texas. Her world is turned upside-down when she discovers that her dying husband, Abe, has a 23-year old illegitimate son named Raymond living in Florida. Somewhere on the edge of guilt and loneliness, Linda grants Abe's final wish and sets off on a quixotic journey to find Raymond and bring him back before her husband passes away. Along the way, Linda's wonderfully bizarre relationship with Raymond will teach her more about herself than she ever imagined possible and force her to come to terms with her troubled past.

*Target*, Written and Directed by Alexander Zeldovich. Zeldovich's very loose adaptation of Anna Karenina is a dystopian spectacular set in 2020 Russia and stylistically combines the philosophical futurism of Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* via a heady mix of contemporary sci-fi references and Felliniesque flourishes. Victor, the minister for natural resources, his wife Zoya, her TV-celebrity brother Mitya and Nicolai, a colonel assigned to commandeer the superhighway, are all members of the elite class with everything but happiness and time at their disposal. Together they travel to the Altai Mountains to an abandoned astrophysics plant - the Target - in order to expose themselves to cosmic rays, which prolong life and rejuvenate the mind. Initially elated by the short-term fix, the long-term impact sends them spiraling into decadence and destruction. Luxuriously shot and designed, this rampant odyssey is a bold and compelling meditation on sex, communication and contemporary power.

## Comedy

*Searching for Sonny*, written and directed by Andrew Disney. Directionless pizza guy Elliot Knight attends his high school reunion to make amends with Sonny Bosco, an old friend he once wronged. Elliot reunites with his fraternal twin brother, many old friends and the love of every classmate's life. Sonny is missing under mysterious circumstances, and their investigation turns meta when they realize everything happening seems eerily similar to a high school play Sonny wrote.

*High Road*, directed by Matt Walsh and written by Matt Walsh and Josh Weiner. Fitz is about to finish his rock opera about his life philosophy, but his world crashes when his band mates quit to take paying jobs. Thinking the cops are going to bust him for dealing pot, Fitz takes off to Oakland and allows his 16 year old neighbor Jimmy to tag along. Thinking this journey is kidnapping, Jimmy's father sets off in pursuit of the duo. Naturally, mayhem pursues.

*An Ordinary Family*, directed by Mike Akel and written by Mike Akel and Matt Patterson. The children of the Biederman family children and their significant others gather for the annual summer reunion. When recently outed brother Seth brings home his new partner to meet everyone, each family member has a different reaction.

*Butter*, directed by Jim Field Smith and written by Jason Micallef. Laura Pickler is a take-no-prisoners, ambitious, control-freak, trophy-wife of Bob a legendary butter carver in Iowa. Laura does not want to lose her celebrity, and decides to enter the competition herself. She meets formidable rival Destine, an 11-year-old African American girl whose innate carving talents match her charm and wisdom. Throw in Bob's wannabe-lover, bad girl, Brooke into the competition and you have a complete comedy satire of Americans of all political stripes

Ted Hope presents *The Collaborator*, Written and Directed by Martin Donovan. Legendary producer Ted Hope comes to Fort Worth with his latest film in which Donovan plays Robert Longfellow, a New York-based playwright whose latest failures seem to signal the end of an otherwise successful career. After a string of soul-crushing meetings during a brief visit to his native Los Angeles, he has two strange encounters: the first with a celebrity actress and former flame; the second, his ex-con former

neighbor. When an unthinkable scenario endangers his return trip to his wife and children, the tools of Longfellow's craft may surface as his rescue device. The Collaborator recently won the Critic's Prize at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival where supporting actor David Morse also picked up a Best Actor award.

## Late Night

Piper Laurie Presents *Carrie* (1976). Written by Lawrence D. Cohen and Directed by Brian de Palma. This classic based on the Stephen King novel of the same name horrified audiences when it was released and earned Piper Laurie and Sissy Spacek Academy Award nominations for their performances. Piper Laurie will join Fort Worth audiences to present this screening and sign copies of her new memoir "Learning to Live Out Loud". (*presented in partnership with the USA Film Festival*).

*The Innkeepers*, written and directed by Ti West. Ti West's follow-up to *The House of the Devil* brings the laughs and the chills in a remarkably deft haunted hotel movie. Set in the venerable Yankee Pedlar Inn, which is about to shut its doors for good after over a century of service. Believed by many to be one of New England's "most haunted hotels," the last remaining employees -Claire and Luke - are determined to uncover proof before it shuts down for good. As the Inn's final days draw near, odd guests check in as the pair of minimum wage "ghost hunters" begin to experience strange and alarming events that may ultimately cause them to be mere footnotes in the hotel's long unexplained history.

*Comin at Ya 3D*,\_Written by Wolf Lowenthal, Lloyd Batista, Gene Quintano and Directed by Ferdinando Baldi,\_In 1981, armed with exclusively developed, cutting-edge 3D technology co-writer/producer/star Tony Anthony enlisted Italian genre veteran Fernando Baldi to realize the first-ever 3D spaghetti western – a grindhouse-fueled tale of a vengeful gunslinger. Breaking indie box office records, COMIN' AT YA! 3D is credited with igniting a resurgence of studio-produced 3D films. Thirty years later, Anthony and producer Tom Stern of STERNCO 3D have broken new frontiers again with the first fully restored classic 3D film in high-definition, utilizing contemporary state-of-art RealD 3D technology.

## Award Season

*Coriolanus*, directed by Ralph Fiennes and written by John Logan. Ralph Fiennes steps behind the camera to bring us a modernized version of this rarely discussed work by Shakespeare. Exchanging ancient Rome for modern Europe, Fiennes and writer John Logan ("The Aviator," "Gladiator") blend Shakespeare's classic wordplay with visually dynamic imagery shot by Barry Ackroyd ("The Hurt Locker"). In this story, a soldier who was once considered a hero in his homeland has been banished, leading him to join forces with his sworn enemy in order to claim his revenge on the city that has abandoned him. This astonishing directorial debut for Fiennes features standout performances from its cast, making a great case for the re-introduction of this action-packed play to worldwide audiences.

*The Bully Project*, directed by Lee Hirsch. This documentary confronts one of the most troubling issues in our school systems today: the bullying crisis. Following five kids and their families over the course of one school year, this heart-wrenching film observes two families who have lost children to suicide and a mother awaiting the fate of her 14-year-old daughter who has been imprisoned after bringing a gun on her school bus. This film examines the dire consequences of bullying through the testimony of strong and courageous youth. We can only hope that their voice will be a catalyst for change in the way we deal with bullying as parents, teachers, children and society as a whole.

*We Need to Talk About Kevin*, directed by Lynne Ramsay and written by Rory Kinnear and Lynne Ramsay. A suspenseful and gripping psychological thriller, Ramsay's latest film explores the factious relationship between a mother and her son. Tilda Swinton, in a bracing, tour-de-force performance, plays the mother, Eva, as she contends for 15 years with the increasing malevolence of her first-born child, Kevin (Ezra Miller). Based on the best-selling novel of the same name, *We Need To Talk About*

*Kevin* explores nature vs. nurture on a whole new level as Eva's own culpability is measured against Kevin's innate evilness. Ramsay's masterful storytelling simultaneously combines a provocative moral ambiguity with a satisfying and compelling narrative, which builds to a chilling, unforgettable climax.

*Rampart*, Written by Oren Moverman and James Ellroy, Directed by Oren Moverman. Los Angeles, 1999. Officer Dave Brown (two-time Academy Award nominee Woody Harrelson) is a Vietnam vet and a Rampart Precinct cop, dedicated to doing "the people's dirty work" and asserting his own code of justice, often blurring the lines between right and wrong to maintain his action-hero state of mind. When he gets caught on tape beating a suspect, he finds himself in a personal and emotional downward spiral as the consequences of his past sins and his refusal to change his ways in light of a department-wide corruption scandal seal his fate. Brown internalizes his fear, anguish and paranoia as his world, complete with two ex-wives who are sisters, two daughters, an aging mentor dispensing bad advice, investigators galore, and a series of seemingly random women, starts making less and less sense. In the end, what is left is a human being stripped of all his pretense, machismo, chauvinism, arrogance, sexism, homophobia, racism, aggression, misanthropy; but is it enough to redeem him as a man?

*The Turin Horse*, Written and Directed by Bela Tarr, Grand Jury Prize 2011 Berlin Film Festival, Official Entry Academy Awards – Hungary. 1889, German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche witnessed the whipping of a horse while traveling in Turin, Italy. He tossed his arms around the horse's neck to protect it then collapsed to the ground. In less than one month, Nietzsche would be diagnosed with a serious mental illness that would make him bed-ridden and speechless for the next eleven years until his death. But whatever did happen to the horse? This film, which is master director Tarr's last, follows up this question in a fictionalized story of what occurred. The man who whipped the horse is a rural farmer who makes his living taking on carting jobs into the city with his horse-drawn cart. The horse is old and in very poor health, but does its best to obey its master's commands. The farmer and his daughter must come to the understanding that it will be unable to go on sustaining their livelihoods.

## Soundtracks

*The Artist*, written and directed by Michel Hazanavicius. A major sensation at Cannes this year, Hazanavicius's latest is a film lover's dream and a tribute to the early days of silent pictures when the concept of the "movie star" was just being born. Jean Dujardin is George Valentin, one of the biggest celebrities of the silent screen in 1920s Hollywood. When a young woman named Peppy stumbles into him as he walks down the red carpet, George inadvertently helps Peppy become a star in her own right, harkening back to the kind of blind luck that created so many icons in those days. At first, their shared stardom is bliss for both George and Peppy, but, when talking pictures begin to take over, George's unwillingness to follow the trend endangers his entire career. While Peppy enjoys a meteoric rise through the Hollywood firmament, George sinks to an all-time low. Like "Singin' in the Rain" and "A Star Is Born" did so many years ago, this film will make you fall in love with movies and the allure of moviemaking all over again.

*Kevin*, director by Jay Duplass.

*All I Know: The Castle Sessions*, directed by Holly Bronko.

Screening together, these two unique music documentaries are about the creative process and the challenges of making original music. In Austin in the early '90s, Filmmaker Jay Duplass' (*Cyrus*) hero was Kevin Gant. He reveled in Kevin's exploratory musical style and playful spirituality. But in 1995, Kevin mysteriously disappeared. Duplass' documentary debut explores who Kevin is, how he lost his inspiration, and what he must do to get it back. *All I Know* follows 12 singer-songwriters from around the world as they come together for three days of intense songwriting in a castle in Denmark. This film is about the exhilarating collaboration that can occur between total strangers and how these songs can be delivered into the world in a most profound and glorious way.

Dee Rees presents *Pariah*. Writer/Director Dee Rees astonishes with this moving, visceral film. Avoiding the coming-of-age movie trap where teenagers talk like adults and adults behave like

teenagers, Rees has written characters that are unmistakably genuine. Alike knows she is a lesbian but is unable to come out to her religious mother or even her supportive father. She leaves her house every day in the girl-chic outfits that her mother buys for her, only to immediately change when she gets to school into the tomboy-ish clothes that she feels comfortable in. As if this double life isn't stressful enough, Alike has to deal with her out-and-proud best friend Laura, whose affinity for gay nightclubs and campaign to find Alike a girlfriend causes even more strife between Alike and her mother. If Alike receives no support from her mother and isn't quite ready for the lifestyle that Laura enjoys, where can she turn?