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**2013 BIG ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL
May 23-27, 2013**

For immediate release

KOHALA COAST, HAWAII—Acclaimed as one of *MovieMaker Magazine's* "20 Can't-Miss Festivals," the Big Island Film Festival (BIFF) 2013 will take place May 23-27 at The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i and The Shops at Mauna Lani. A celebration of narrative filmmaking, BIFF 2013 includes film screenings, social events, screenwriting workshop and a closing night "Best of the Fest" with a top Hawaiian music concert and movies chosen by the audience from Festival entries.

"There are hundreds of film festivals around the country," said Executive Director Leo Sears, "but how many offer the audience a resort setting like The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i? Their Plantation Estate is this incredibly beautiful lū'au area by the tennis garden. They set up a 20-foot screen and superb sound system, gourmet food stations, a beer and wine bar—all out there under the stars, surrounded by palm trees. It's just a magnificent way to spend Memorial Day Weekend."

The majority of BIFF events take place at various locations within The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i, including daytime film screenings in the air-conditioned amphitheatre, filmmaker workshops, celebrity receptions and salutes, as well as "festival films" (up to R) and Best of the Fest, at Plantation Estate. Family films (up to PG-13) are shown at The Shops at Mauna Lani Center Stage, where admission is free.

"We're not quite ready to announce the celebrities for this year yet," said Sears. Generally, one filmmaker and one actor are invited to attend BIFF, where attendees can meet and interact with them at receptions and salutes in their honor, and other social occasions. "But I can tell you that we're getting a lot of interest from stars who've heard about the Festival and want to experience the Big Island."

Past years celebrity honorees have included Hawai'i actresses Kristina Anapau ("Black Swan", "True Blood") and Sarah Wayne Callies ("The Walking Dead"), Tom Berenger, Cary Hiroyuki Tagawa, D.B. Sweeney, John Saxon and filmmakers Ron Osborn, Rick Stevenson, David Winning and Scott Stewart. And, such noted Hawaiian musicians as Makana, Brother Noland, John Cruz, Henry Kapono and Kohala have graced the stage.

BIFF 2013's "Golden Honu" Awards will be presented to the Best Feature and Best Short in Family, Student, Animated, Foreign, Hawaii and Audience Choice categories at a special Awards Brunch to honor the filmmakers and their works on Monday, May 27. Numerous alumni films have won awards at prestigious film festivals around the world, and achieved commercial success in the industry. One of BIFF's alumni short films, "The Buzkashi Boys" is a current Oscar nominee.

The Big Island "Talk Story" Film Festival is a celebration of narrative filmmaking. Sponsors include The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i, The Shops at Mauna Lani, County of Hawai'i/Hawai'i Tourism Authority CPEP, Redeeming Light Ministry and others. For detailed information visit www.BigIslandFilmFestival.com, find them on Facebook, or 808-883-0394.

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