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PALO ALTO INT'L FILM FESTIVAL
RETURNS SEPT. 27-30 2012
EXPANDED PROGRAM INCLUDES FREE OUTDOOR SCREENINGS, 75+ FILMS,
MORE

PALO ALTO, CA (August 16, 2012) – The Palo Alto Int'l Film Festival comes roaring back in 2012 with an expanded line up, four nights of free outdoor screenings, and a wide variety of programming, it was announced at the Kick-Off Party, held Saturday, August 11 at Stonebrook Court in Los Altos Hills. Guests of the party included sponsors, public officials, business and community leaders, science and technology experts, filmmakers, artists, passholders, and entertainment and new media dignitaries. T.J. Rodgers, owner and winemaker for Clos de la Tech, attended to pour the winery's famous Pinot Noir and featured its cutting edge wine-making technology and equipment. In addition, Moreno BHLV provided Sparking Wine, Thomas Fogarty Winery provided Chardonnay, and Joshua Charles Catering provided the appetizers and desserts.

PAIFF announced its 2012 Film Program will include both special events and over 75 features and shorts that are in competition within the following categories: Best Short, Best Series (Web or TV), Best New Platform Grant, Best Animation/VFX, Best Tech Doc, Best Local Short and Best High School Short. PAIFF also announced a panel of jury members comprised of leaders in the art and technology communities who have pushed the boundaries of art through innovative use of new technology. Among the significant news announced: two major studios have chosen PAIFF as platforms for showcasing upcoming films: audiences at PAIFF will enjoy pre-release screenings of Looper, a futuristic action thriller starring Bruce Willis, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt, and Jeff Daniels and Paperman, a bold new work from the Walt Disney Animation Studios that takes cinema in a bold new direction, merging computer-generated and hand-drawn animation techniques.

At the event PAIFF also presented its Festival Trailer, made in collaboration with Le3 PARIS from Paris, France, made possible through grants from the French American Cultural Society, the Consulate General of France in San Francisco and UBER, your on-demand private driver.

"PAIFF 2012's Program reflects the exciting changes that have taken place over the last five years with the growth of the internet." said Alexandra Ippolite, Managing Director at PAIFF. "Consumers are becoming producers and are now able to participate and collaborate in the storytelling process. PAIFF 2012 is all about the interactive
- **Oil and Water** (Kraig Fujii) - Oil and Water piques viewer's interests as the alleged medium is transformed into an abstract visual exploration.

- **Path to Integration** (Nikki Kashani, Hannah Hansen) - An eye-opening and heartwarming documentary about **Abilities United**, a compilation of programs for kids and adults with developmental and physical challenges. AU offers after-school socialization for ages 5 to 22. The film promotes a deeper knowledge of the difficulties that kids with disabilities face, and also offers a solution.

- **Pandora's Box** (Hanna Lautebauch) - Audiences follow a young architect construct a mysterious box - Pandora's Box. The filmmaker creates a sense of intrigue by synchronizing the detailed construction of the box with ambient rhythmic music. But what is inside the Box?

- **College Essay #1** (Zachary Clarence) - A high school student applying to college narrates her college application essay number one by answering the following prompt: describe the world you come from, for example, your family, community or school, and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations. The filmmaker artistically weaves narrative dialogue with the college essay text, creating a visual representation of a college application essay.

6:30 PM  **Local Shorts Program** Palo Alto Theater Square #2 (735 Emerson Street, Palo Alto)

- **Between Land and Sea** (Sarah Berkovich, J. Christian Jensen) - Situated on tiny East Brother Island, Peter & Dina are newly-married and have been running a lighthouse bed and breakfast for nearly two years. Surrounded by lighthouse kitsch and romantic views of the San Francisco Bay, the strain of serving up an idealized tourist experience and living in extremely close quarters is beginning to show. 'Between Land and Sea' relies on stunning landscapes and the energy of observational shooting to create a contrast between the romanticized images of self-reliance and isolation and the realities of running a business in the modern world.

- **Shangri-La** (Adam Smith) - Donyo, a Tibetan monk, describes his transition into American life and the daily routine of keeping a suburbia home turned monastery in Silicon Valley for fellow exiled monks. He reflects upon the challenges and pleasures of first arriving in America, the interface with technology and the peculiarities of the suburbs compared to the Himalayan community he grew up in.

- **Worlds Apart** (Michael Huber) - **Worlds Apart** is about a young family living on a farm in Central California. Their story is set against the backdrop of a possible environmental disaster. The themes of love, friendship, and family twist and turn when the farm is visited by creatures from another planet. Anyone who can appreciate beautifully crafted 3D animation or is interested in the human spirit can enjoy this amazing story.

- **Faceoff: Tyranny vs Resistance** (Betsy Franco) - Talented Gunn High School writers and actors present an ensemble of compelling, original monologues, based on the characters and themes of the book, *In the Time of the Butterflies*. Julia Alvarez's book is a beautifully written account of the journey of four Mirabal sisters from childhood to activism to jail to house arrest to the murder of all but one at the hands of a dictator.