



VIRGINIA FILM OFFICE

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Virginia Film Office Announces Winning Films in the First Annual *Virginia Independent Film Festival*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 24, 2008

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RICHMOND, Va. – The winners of the first annual Virginia Film Competition, sponsored by the Virginia Film Office, were recently announced at the Virginia Independent Film Festival at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond. The Virginia Film Competition was created to support and showcase Virginia independent filmmakers who produces a wide variety of short films, videos, documentaries, commercials, feature films, television shows and content for new media outlets. The juried competition culminated with the Virginia Independent Film Festival, at which the thirteen finalist films were screened in three main categories and the winners of the Film Competition were announced. The Film Festival was co-produced by the Virginia Film Office and the Virginia Production Alliance, an industry trade organization with a mission to support Virginia media production.

“The Virginia Film Office is proud to support our accomplished community of independent filmmakers by providing them with an opportunity to showcase their work,” commented Virginia Film Office Director Rita McClenny. “We believe the *Virginia Film Competition* to be the only state-supported competition of its kind that and are proud to support our talented filmmakers and their exciting work.”

During the *Virginia Independent Film Festival*, three documentaries, seven short films, and three feature length films were screened in three sessions grouped by category. At the end of each session, the winning films were announced and the filmmakers were presented with a cash prize.

The winning documentary was *The Person Most Real* by Olivia Dodson (Amherst), the winning feature film was *Freedom* by Rick McVey (Bristol), and the two films that tied for first place in the shorts category were *Lustig* by John Francis Black II (Gainesville) and *Canned* by Joseph Rohrs (Virginia Beach).

For more information on the Virginia Film Office visit www.film.virginia.org

For more information about the Virginia Production Alliance, visit www.filmva.com