



VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FILM FOUNDATION

**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS: 1985 - 2015**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Announcing Sleepless In Burlington, a 40-Hour Filmmaking Competition at VTIFF 2015**

Burlington, VT: (October 14, 2015): The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to announce the Sleepless in Burlington Filmmaking Competition. This competition will take place during the final weekend of the 2015 Vermont International Film Festival, October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, in downtown Burlington. The competition features teams of filmmaking students from The University of Vermont, Champlain College, Middlebury College and Burlington College. The winning film will be selected by a panel of judges, including Vermont filmmakers Mark Covino (*A Band Called Death*) and Eva Solberger (*Stuck in Vermont*) and Colin Trevorrow (*Jurassic World*).

#### **Overview:**

Sleepless in Burlington is a 40-hour film competition in which four teams of film students from area colleges create short films over the course of a weekend. Returning to the festival as part of VTIFF's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the competition provides an excellent showcase for the talent and passion of tomorrow's filmmakers. The completed films will be screened on November 1, the final day of the festival, at 2:00pm at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, and will be adjudicated by a jury of professionals headed by director Colin Trevorrow (*Safety Not Guaranteed*; *Jurassic World*). Awards for Best Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Audience Choice will be presented and there will be a reception in the Film House Lobby following the event.

**Schedule:**

All of the teams will assemble at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center on Friday, 10/30, at 6:30pm. The general rules and parameters of the competition will be discussed and teams will receive their prompts (certain elements which may include themes, dialogue, props, locations, or so on that need to be included in each film) and will also be assigned a principle cast of actors. The teams then have 40 hours to write, shoot, produce, and edit a film that is no longer than 10 minutes in length. Final submissions are due by 10:30am on Sunday, November 1. The showcase presentation of the films will take place at the Film House of Main Street Landing at 2:00pm. After the screenings there will be a brief intermission, followed by the announcement of award winners. There will be a reception with refreshments immediately following the showcase in the Film House Lobby.

**Participants:**

The University of Vermont - Team Advisor: Deb Ellis

Burlington College - Team Advisors: Mary Arbuckle and Jesse Kreitzer

Champlain College - Team Advisors: Julia Swift and Michael Fisher

Middlebury College - Team Advisors: Ethan Murphy, Ioana Uricaru and Matt Lennon

**Judges:****Colin Trevorrow**

Trevorrow is the lauded writer and director of *Safety Not Guaranteed* and *Jurassic World*. He has been tapped to direct one of the upcoming Star Wars sequels and is currently at work on the drama *The Book of Henry*.

**Eva Sollberger**

Sollberger is a filmmaker, journalist, and social media maven who created and produces the acclaimed *Stuck in Vermont* web series. She has directed over 400 episodes for the series.

**Mark Covino**

Mark Covino has worked on numerous film and television projects in a variety of capacities over the years. He is perhaps best known as the director of the widely praised documentary *A Band Called Death* and the upcoming *The Crest*.

The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to present the 2015 Vermont International Film Festival, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 in Downtown Burlington. This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of VTIFF and to celebrate, VTIFF will be presenting the largest film festival program in its recent history, featuring over 75 films from around the world, special guests, events, receptions, school programs and much more. This 10-day celebration of cinema and community takes place at the Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center with screenings in both the Black Box Theater and the Film House and events in the Lobby and Atrium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of Main Street Landing. Other locations include The BCA Center on Church Street with Lunchtime Shorts screenings during the weekdays at noon, and VTIFF After Dark screenings at Arts Riot on Pine Street. The full schedule is available online for viewing and ticket purchase at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org). The printed festival program will be inserted in every issue of Seven Days on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, then available at the Festival Office at 230 College Street in Burlington. The Printed program will be available on site during the festival.

VTIFF 2015 is sponsored by Green Valley Media, Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Community Fund, Grace Jones Richardson Trust, City of Burlington, John M Bissell Foundation, Champlain College, UVM, Northfield Savings Bank, Urban Rhino Visual, Arts Riot, Burlington City Arts, Ben & Jerry's.

**The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF)** is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film. VTIFF operates year-round and showcases community film screenings, supports programming like the Global Roots Series, the Burlington Film Society and VTIFF For Schools, as well as supporting Vermont filmmakers. VTIFF celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The festival also includes the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. The 2015 festival runs October 23<sup>rd</sup> -November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, and The BCA Center. More information at [www.vtiff.org](http://www.vtiff.org).

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