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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Special Double Bill of *A Vermont Romance* and Orson Welles' *Chimes at Midnight* on April 28th

Burlington, VT: (April 15, 2016) Main Street Landing, The Burlington Film Society (BFS), the Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) are pleased to present an exciting double feature screening of *A Vermont Romance* and Orson Welles' *Chimes at Midnight* on Thursday, April 28th. These screenings take place at The Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street in Burlington:

Thursday, April 28th:

6:00pm: **A Vermont Romance** - a very special 100th anniversary screening of the first feature film shot in Vermont featuring a live score performed by composer Bob Merrill. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Steve Bissette, cartoonist and author of *Green Mountain Cinema*; Andy Kolovos, Co-Director & Archivist at Vermont Folklife Center, Ethan de Seife, film historian and journalist, Margorie Allard, Preservation Burlington, & Orly Yadin, Executive Director of VTIFF. Please stay on for the food reception and cash bar with Shelburne Vineyards (7:00pm – 8:00pm.)

8:15pm: **Chimes at Midnight** - a 50th anniversary screening of the "lost" Orson Welles film, restored and presented theatrically for the first time in Vermont!

A Vermont Romance is a special benefit for VAMP, the Vermont Archive Movie Project and VTIFF and tickets are \$15, or \$12 for VTIFF Patron Members. They can be purchased here: <http://brownpapertickets.com/e/2500278>. Learn more about VAMP here:

<http://vtiff.org/vamp>

Chimes at Midnight is free for VTIFF Members, or \$8 general admission / \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased online here: <http://chimes-bfs.bpt.me/>. Tickets can also be purchased for both screenings for \$20. To learn more about VTIFF Membership and benefits, please visit <http://vtiff.org/membership>.

About the films:

A Vermont Romance

Produced by the Vermont Progressive Party | Directed by Ralph Newman

USA | 1916 | 35 min (3 reels)

Featuring a new music score composed and played by Bob Merrill

Tour sponsors: Vermont Humanities Council; National Life; Urban Rhino Digital;

Media sponsors VPR

We're delighted to present the results of this restored and digitally re-mastered 2K version of the film produced through a partnership with the Vermont Historical Society. The screening, a fundraiser for VAMP, is a special celebration of the film's centenary and is part of a statewide tour – traveling Vermont throughout the spring of 2016.

The 1916 film, *A Vermont Romance*, is the first feature film ever made in Vermont. The Vermont Movie Archive Project (VAMP) and the Vermont Historical Society partnered on the digital restoration of the film to create a high definition 2K version. This screening is part of a statewide tour presenting the film with live piano accompaniment and a panel of experts, in six large venues and 12 small ones throughout Vermont in the spring of 2016 to celebrate the film's 100th birthday.

This movie is an extraordinary piece of Vermont folklore - it was commissioned by the Vermont Progressive Party (affiliated with Theodore Roosevelt's national Bull Moose Party) and its newspaper, *The Vermont Advance*. Scenes were filmed in Burlington, Grand Isle, Newport, St. Johnsbury, White River Junction, Rutland, Chester and Bellows Falls. This fueled interest from

theater owners from all corners of the state to host screenings. The plot is a fairly standard silent melodrama with no apparent political bent. The film is both a romance and a scenic tour of Vermont. It tells the tale of Dorothy, a country girl who befriends a rich girl and two city gents who are out for a drive in the country. Upon the death of her father she loses the farm where she lives and works. Almost penniless, she moves to Burlington to find work, and her adventures begin. Filming began Wednesday June 21, 1916 and was completed 10 days later! The first screening of the film was held Saturday, Sept 16, 1916 in Burlington to an audience of 4,000 followed by Essex Junction, Waterbury, St. Johnsbury, Rutland, South Royalton, Bethel and more.

The original music score for A Vermont Romance is yet to be discovered. As part of the project VAMP has commissioned Bob Merrill, a veteran silent film composer and pianist to create a new score and the screening will be accompanied, as were most silent films of that time, by live piano, played by Merrill to his new score.

Chimes at Midnight

Directed by Orson Welles

USA | 1966 | 119 min

With: Orson Welles, Jeanne Moreau, Margaret Rutherford, John Gielgud, Marina Vlady

The crowning achievement of Orson Welles's later film career, *Chimes at Midnight* returns to the screen after being unavailable for decades. This brilliantly crafted Shakespeare adaptation was the culmination of Welles's lifelong obsession with the Bard's ultimate rascal, Sir John Falstaff, the loyal, often soused childhood friend of King Henry IV's wayward son, Prince Hal. Appearing in several plays as a comic supporting figure, Falstaff is here the main event: a robustly funny and ultimately tragic screen antihero, played by Welles with lumbering grace. Integrating elements from both Henry IV plays as well as Richard II, Henry V, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Welles created an unorthodox Shakespeare film that is also a gritty period piece, one that he called "a lament... for the death of Merrie England." Poetic, philosophical, and visceral—with a kinetic battle sequence centerpiece as impressive as anything else Welles directed—*Chimes at Midnight* is as monumental as the figure at its center.

Main Street Landing is an environmentally and socially conscious redevelopment company in Burlington, Vermont that has created over 250,000 square feet of built environment on the Burlington Waterfront. The Film House, located at 60 Lake Street is used primarily for film

screenings and presentations. It is equipped with a large screen that covers west facing windows, control room, Dolby surround sound, retractable screen, and smart podium and can fit up to 220 people. More information at www.mainstreetlanding.com.

The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film, celebrating 30 years, 1985-2015. VTIFF is a year-round organization that showcases community film screenings, hosts film series like the Global Roots Series, and supports Vermont filmmakers. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival. The festival is best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont and for the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films. More information at www.vtiff.org.

The Burlington Film Society (BFS) is a resource for local film events, meet-ups and an advocacy platform for cinema. The mission of the Film Society is to cultivate film culture in the greater Burlington area through the creation of an organizational mechanism for cineastes; by working with area theaters, arts presenters, granting organizations, educational institutions, and businesses to generate opportunities for theatrical screenings of films; and by increasing opportunity for engagement with and appreciation of cinema. For more information about The Burlington Film Society, visit www.vtiff.org/bfs.

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