



For Immediate Release

Contact; Gary Springer

212-354-4660

gary@springerassociatespr.com

FIRST TIME FEST
CELEBRATING FIRST-TIME FILMMAKERS

**Is Proud To Announce Its Grand Prize Winner Of Theatrical
Distribution**

From Cinema Libre Studio Is Awarded To

SAL

Written And Directed By Diego Rougier (Chile/Argentina)

An inventive modern-day western with majestic sweep, great acting,
and a lot of surprises.

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Directing

AMÉLIE VAN ELMBT

(Headfirst / La Tete La Premiere)

For balancing a fairy tale quality with genuine believability, as its
characters enter a forest, and confront a different world

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Writing

MAX WEISSBERG

(Summertime)

For a script showing clarity of vision, great storytelling talent, and
sophistication, drawing inspiration from the work of Arthur Schnitzler

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Acting

NEAL BLEDSOE

(Junction)

For the ferocity of the performance, and playing an unsympathetic character who becomes more and more out of control in a believable way

& ALICE DE LENCQUESAING

(Headfirst / La Tete La Premiere)

A star is born. A natural, seemingly effortless performance that makes everything she does believable

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography

DAVID BRAVO

(Sal)

For beautiful cinematography with rich details, surprising touches, and a sense of humor

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Editing

JONAH MARIN, JOHN YOUNG

(Zipper)

Fast-paced editing that captures, in a balanced way, a story about humanity in an age of greed. The editing works like The Zipper itself, connecting the ride with the story of Coney Island

FTF Award for Outstanding Achievement in Scoring

MARTIN BOSSA AND TOMÁS CARNELLI

(I Love You All / Los Quiero A Todos)

A score marked by its precision, use of silence, trust in the place of language,
and by its exuberance

**FIRST JOHN HUSTON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN
CINEMA To **DARREN ARONOFSKY** Presented By **MARTIN SCORSESE****

**Closing Night Awards Hosted By Legendary Actress
ELLEN BURSTYN**

**Awards Presented By
ANTHONY RAPP**

**Competition Jury Members
**FRED SCHNEIDER, GAY TALESE,
ANNE-KATRIN TITZE, CHRISTINE VACHON
& THE FTF AUDIENCE****

**Special Guests
TONY BENNETT & JACK HUSTON**

**HOSTED BY THE HISTORIC PLAYERS CLUB
With Food Provided by **Chef Diane Dimeo**
Champagne by **Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte****

After 4 days featuring 12 new films from around the world; 11 retrospective screenings with artists such as Sofia Coppola, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Todd Solondz and Hal Hartley; 9 Amazing panels featuring the brightest industry minds; and 8 special events including conversations with Michael Shannon and Harry Belafonte, the inaugural FIRST TIME FEST came to a close on Monday, March 4 with its Closing Night Awards Ceremony.

Hosted by Oscar® winning actress Ellen Burstyn (who won for Martin Scorsese's "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," and was nominated for Darren Aronofsky's "Requiem for a Dream"), and presented by Anthony Rapp, the Awards included the presentation of the Grand Prize: distribution from Cinema Libre Studio; as well as awards in 6 other categories - Outstanding Achievement in Directing, Writing, Acting, Cinematography, Edition, Scoring. Master filmmaker Martin

Scorsese presented the First John Huston Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cinema to Darren Aronofsky.

Among the many guests and participants attending the festival over the four days were Tony Bennett, Jack Huston, Harry Belafonte, Michael Shannon, Darren Aronofsky, Martin Scorsese, Ellen Burstyn, Sofia Coppola, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Ryan, Todd Solondz, Hal Hartley, Barbara Kopple, Melvin Van Peebles, Nancy Savoca, Ben Shenkman, Fred Schneider, Gay Talese, Anne-Katrin Titze, Christine Vachon, Mary Engle, William Luhr, Jenny Lumet, Frida Torresblanco, Patricia Kluge and our fantastic competition filmmakers, Benj Binks (Mongolian Bling), Seth Fisher (Blumenthal), Tony Glazer (Junction), Eliav Lilti (Urban Tale), Amy Nicholson (Zipper), Sophie O'Connor (Submerge), Diego Rougier (Sal) Luciano Quillic (I Love You All), Fredrik Stanton (Uprising), Amélie Van Elmbt (Headfirst), Max Weissberg (Summertime).

First Time Fest (FTF) – a celebration of first time filmmakers –is a new and unique film festival that took place in New York City from March 1 through 4, 2013. FTF is set to discover and present the next generation of great cinema artists. Each of First Time Fest's twelve finalists received high-level industry mentorship and a one-year membership to The Players. This year's FTF industry jury included Fred Schneider, Gay Talese, Anne-Katrin Titze and Christine Vachon, together with the audience members. The Grand Prize winner will be offered theatrical distribution for their film and full international sales representation from the renowned American film distributor, Cinema Libre Studio.

Cinema Libre Studio is a leader in distributing social-issue documentaries and features by passionate filmmakers. Headquartered in Los Angeles, the Cinema Libre team has released over one hundred films including the Sundance Audience Award-Winning FUEL, THE END OF POVERTY?, and Oliver Stone's SOUTH OF THE BORDER.

In addition to the Competition Films, FTF presented FIRST EXPOSURE, a series of first films from now prominent filmmakers. They included THE VIRGIN SUICIDES (Sofia Coppola), WELCOME TO THE DOLLHOUSE (Todd Solondz), BOTTLE ROCKET (Wes Anderson), HARLAN COUNTY, USA (Barbara Kopple), THE STORY OF A THREE-DAY PASS (Melvin Van Peebles), PI (Darren Aronofsky), THE MALTESE FALCON (John Huston), POISON (Todd Haynes), JACK GOES BOATING (Philip Seymour Hoffman) THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH (Hal Hartley), and TRUE LOVE (Nancy Savoca). The Festival also included a 60th Anniversary Tribute to Morris Engel's THE

LITTLE FUGITIVE and special presentations of DAYS OF GRACE (Everardo Gout), and the new documentary about The Police CAN'T STAND LOSING YOU by Andy Grieve.

First Time Fest also included a series of panels called “*How They Did It*,” in which a diverse group of award-winning filmmakers and industry professionals moderated filmmaking case studies and spotlighted some of the most successful and accomplished masters of the industry. The panels were Sell, Baby, Sell: Marketing Independent Films (Emily Russo, Scott Feinstein, Andrew Mer, Monica Brady); From Rock To Score: Contemporary Musicians Who Become Film Composers (Daniel Bensi and Will Bates); Show Me the Money Panel with John Hadity (Producer), Duncan Cork (CEO Slated), Mynette Louie (Producer) and moderator Steven Beer; Transmedia/Storytelling Panel with Susan Weaving (WME), Adam Goldman (The Outs), Nathan Coyle; Help Me Help You: Everyone Needs an Agent, Manager, Publicist, Lawyer and Personal Umbrella Handler! Panel with Ken Lee (Innovative), Scott Kaufman (Bohemia Group), Jan Rubinstein (Manager), Paul Zingone (IC Entertainment) and moderator Steven Beer; and A Critical Eye: Critics and their Role in Discovering New Filmmakers (Scott Foundas, Eric Kohn, Dana Stevens, Josh Rothkopf).

Sponsored by Morgan Stanley the Diversity in Cinema panel included Harry Belafonte, Frida Torresblanco, Jenny Lumet, and moderator Leslie Fields-Cruz. How has the participation of women and minorities in the film industry changed over time? There has been real progress in recent years, but has it been enough, and what can we expect in the years ahead?

“Stand Alone! – Conversations with the Outstanding” were one-on-one interviews with notable cinema artists – Harry Belafonte and Michael Shannon.

Johanna Bennett and Mandy Ward are the co-founders of First Time Fest. As an accomplished philanthropist, actor and social entrepreneur, as well as the daughter of singer Tony Bennett, Johanna Bennett has immersed herself within the entertainment and artistic community her entire life. Mandy Ward has worked in the film industry for the past decade in varied capacities, namely as a film producer of several projects. Mitch Levine, CEO of The Film Festival Group, is producing the festival. Through his company, Mitch offers consulting services and expertise to film festivals, film commissions, distribution companies and filmmakers around the world, and was formerly the CEO and Executive Director of the renowned Palm Springs International Film Festival. The Festival’s Director of Programming is David Schwartz, the Chief Curator of Museum of the Moving Image.

Other terrific sponsors of the fest include Brooklyn Brewery, Moscot, Marquis Vodka and Technicolor Postworks.

For more information visit The Festival Website at www.FirstTimeFest.com

COMPETITION FILMS – (please visit web site for film descriptions)

BLUMENTHAL - *New York Premiere*. USA, 86 minutes. Written and directed by Seth Fisher. With Fisher, Brian Cox, Mark Blum, Laila Robins, Mei Melançon.

HEADFIRST (LA TETE LA PREMIERE) - *U.S. Premiere*. Belgium/France, 89 minutes. Written and directed by Amélie van Elmbt. With Alice de Lencquesaing, David Murgia, Jacques Doillon.

HORIZON SKY - *World Premiere*. Belarus, 133 mins. Written and directed by Dmitry Marinin, Andrey Kureychik. With Leonid Pashkovsky, Tatyana Bovkalova, Viktor Rybchinsky, Anna Sirotina.

I LOVE YOU ALL (LOS QUIERO A TODOS) - *U.S. Premiere*. Argentina, 75 mins. Written, directed, and produced by Luciano Quillici. With Ramiro Aguero, Santiago Gobemori, Diego Jalfen, Valeria Louis, Leticia Mazur, Margarita Molfino, Alan Sabbagh.

JUNCTION - USA, 90 mins. Written and directed by Tony Glazer. With Tom Pelphrey, Neal Bledsoe, Harris Doran, Summer Crockett Moore, Anthony Rapp, David Zayas, Michael O'Keefe

MONGOLIAN BLING - *U.S. Premiere*. Australia/Mongolia, 90 mins. Documentary, directed by Benj Binks.

SAL - *New York Premiere*. Chile/Argentina, 112 mins. Written and directed by Diego Rougier. With Fele Martínez, Patricio Contreras, Sergio Hernández, Javiera Contador.

SUBMERGE - *World Premiere*. Australia, 90 mins. Directed by Sophie O'Connor. With Lily Hall, Christina Hallett, Kevin Dee, Georgia Bolton.

SUMMERTIME - *New York Premiere*. USA, 90 mins. Written and directed by Max Weissberg. With Lethia Nall, Eric Garcia, Rob Hollander, H.R. Britton, James Eason, Jenny Grace, Olivia Horton, Michele Cesari.

UPRISING – USA/Egypt, 85 mins. Documentary directed by Fredrik Stanton.

URBAN TALE - U.S. Premiere. Israel, 90 mins. Written and directed by Eliav Lilti. With Barak Friedman, Noa Friedman, Esti Yerushalmi, Zohar Shtrauss, Ohad Knoller, Michal Shtamler.

ZIPPER - USA, 77 mins. Documentary directed by Amy Nicholson.

Gary Springer
Springer Associates PR
1501 Broadway, Suite 506
New York, NY 10036
+1.212.354.4660 (o)
+1.914.659.4802 (m)
Gary@springerassociatespr.com