



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**20TH ANNIVERSARY NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES SIGNATURE PROGRAMS**

**ROBERT TOWNE TO RECEIVE SCREENWRITERS TRIBUTE
DAVID STEINBERG TO HOST**

ALSO HONORING LIZ GARBUS and LESLYE HEADLAND

**EPIX TO PRESENT SPECIAL PANEL, “WOMEN BEHIND THE WORDS: STORIES FROM
HOLLYWOOD’S FRONT LINES”**

**STAGED READING OF ORIGINAL TV PILOT,
BOB FISHER’S MY ROOMMATE,
with PETE DAVIDSON (*SNL*) and DAVE FOLEY (*NEWSRADIO*)**

**NOAH BAUMBACH’S *MISTRESS AMERICA* AND BRYAN BUCKLEY’S *THE BRONZE*
ADDED TO FEATURE FILM LINE-UP**

New York, NY (May 14, 2015) – The Nantucket Film Festival (NFF) is thrilled to announce legendary screenwriter Robert Towne as the recipient of the 2015 Screenwriters Tribute, presented by EPIX. NFF will also honor *What Happened, Miss Simone?*'s Liz Garbus and *Sleeping With Other People*'s Leslye Headland.

Towne is known for his Academy Award[®]-winning script for *Chinatown*, cited as one of the greatest screenplays of all time in a 2006 industry poll conducted by the Writers Guild of America. Other notable credits include *The Last Detail*, *Shampoo*, and *Mission: Impossible*, as well as famously uncredited work on *The Godfather* and *Bonnie & Clyde*. Past Tribute recipients have included Aaron Sorkin, David O. Russell, Nancy Meyers, Harold Ramis, Judd Apatow, Steven Martin, Charlie Kaufman, and Alexander Payne.

“In our 20th anniversary year we could not be more thrilled to honor the incomparable Robert Towne. As a festival that recognizes achievements in screenwriting, Towne’s body of work has truly changed the landscape of American cinema,” said Mystelle Brabbée, Executive Director of the Nantucket Film Festival. “In addition, the festival is excited to recognize Liz Garbus, Leslye Headland, and Beau Willimon, all at the forefront of their craft. What better way to celebrate our anniversary year than to have comedic great David Steinberg host this tremendous evening.”

Headland (*Bachelorette*) will be honored with the New Voices in Screenwriting Award. Her second feature as writer/director, *Sleeping With Other People*, will screen as a Spotlight Film at the festival. Academy Award[®]-nominee Liz Garbus (*The Farm: Angola, USA*; *Love, Marilyn*) will receive the Special Achievement in Documentary Storytelling Award, presented by A&E IndieFilms. Her most recent film, *What Happened, Miss Simone?*, will screen as NFF’s Centerpiece Film prior to its premiere on Netflix.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to NFF, the Tribute, and their support of great storytellers, the festival will present an anniversary Visionary Award to Bob and Suzanne Wright at the ceremony. The Screenwriters Tribute will take place on Saturday, June 27, and will be hosted by comedy icon David Steinberg. Award presenters will be announced in the coming weeks. Past presenters have included Diane Keaton, Glenn Close, Bradley Whitford, and Lorne

Michaels.

Robert Towne will also participate in an In Their Shoes...[®] conversation at the festival with Chris Matthews of MSNBC's *Hardball* and NBC's *The Chris Matthews Show*. In Their Shoes... is presented by Final Draft.

At the festival, premiere entertainment network EPIX will also present a special panel, "Women Behind the Words: Stories from Hollywood's Front Lines." Moderated by NPR's Ophira Eisenberg, the panel will feature an in-depth and lively discussion between USC Professor Stacy L. Smith, A&E Network's President and CEO Nancy Dubuc, and additional panelists to be announced in the coming weeks.

NFF will produce a live staged reading of an original, unproduced TV pilot, Spencer Sloan's *Bob Fisher's My Roommate*. Presented in association with Bob Fisher himself, a producer and the screenwriter of *Wedding Crashers*, and actor/comedian Denis Leary (*Rescue Me*), *Bob Fisher's My Roommate* is a meta-comedy that follows Pete Davidson (*Saturday Night Live*) as Sloan, a writing assistant who lives in the same apartment as his executive producer boss Fisher (television comedy veteran Dave Foley), while filming the first season of USA Network's show *Sirens*. Past NFF staged reading casts have included Will Ferrell, Mos Def, Paul Rudd, Ben Stiller, Cynthia Nixon, Rosie Perez, Steve Zahn, Amy Sedaris, and Lake Bell.

Late Night Storytelling, a long-standing Signature Program at the festival, will take place Friday, June 26. This fun and unpredictable evening invites NFF guests and islanders alike to share stories live on stage, on this year's theme: "Fact vs. Fiction." The evening will once again be hosted by writer/comedian Ophira Eisenberg, host of NPR's weekly comedy trivia show *Ask Me Another*. Last year's storytellers included Michael Ian Black, Mark Duplass, and Fred Willard. The evening is sponsored by Showtime.

The conversation series, Morning Coffee With...[®], returns, this year with comedian Eddie Brill (*Late Show With David Letterman*) as host and moderator. Morning Coffee offers audiences the chance to hear writers and filmmakers talk about their craft in an informal discussion at the start of each day at NFF.

Additionally, NFF will screen two late additions to its previously announced feature film program:

Mistress America, the latest comedy from Noah Baumbach and Greta Gerwig (*Frances Ha*), casts Lola Kirke as a lonely Barnard freshman whose life is shaken up by her impulsive future stepsister, played by Gerwig. The film premiered earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival and will be released later this summer by Fox Searchlight.

The Bronze, directed by Bryan Buckley, stars Melissa Rauch (*The Big Bang Theory*), who also wrote the script, together with Winston Rauch. The satirical comedy, about a one-time Olympian gymnast desperately clinging to past glory, debuted as one of the opening night selections at this year's Sundance, and was acquired by Relativity Media.

The 20th Annual Nantucket Film Festival runs from June 24-29. Passes and ticket packages are currently on sale on the NFF website (www.nantucketfilmfestival.org), with individual tickets going on sale May 21.

ABOUT THE NANTUCKET FILM FESTIVAL

The Nantucket Film Festival was founded by brother and sister team Jonathan and Jill Burkhart in 1996 to promote the cultural awareness and appreciation of the fine art of screenwriting in the world of cinema. These days, NFF has become one of the premier destination film festivals in the world. Visitors come from all over to experience the preview screenings, unique signature programs, and stand out hospitality on a magical island rich with history, a friendly atmosphere, and beautiful sandy beaches. In addition to screening over 75 films across six days, NFF

presents the Screenwriters Tribute, In Their Shoes... hosted by Chris Matthews, Late Night Storytelling, and our daily Morning Coffee With... series.

###

Press Contacts

– FRANK PR –

Stephanie Davidson | stephanie@frankpublicity.com | 646-861-0843
Clare Anne Darragh | Clareanne@frankpublicity.com | 646-861-0843
Lina Plath | Lina@frankpublicity.com | 646-861-0843