



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Samuel Thomas, Co-Festival Director

(254) 340-4327

info@deepintheheartff.com

DEEP IN THE HEART FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES OPENING FEATURE, PANEL LINEUP

WACO, Texas (December 13, 2016) — The first annual Deep in the Heart Film Festival (DitHFF), a four day independent film event held at the Waco Hippodrome in the heart of the Central Texas area, announces key details to its February event.

The festival, which runs February 16-19, 2017, proudly announces the opening night feature, *Blur Circle*. The drama was directed by Chris Hansen, Baylor University Chair of the Film & Digital Media Department and written by J. Brian Elliott, a Baylor Senior Lecturer. Filmed in Waco, Texas, the compelling drama stars Cora Vander Broek, Matthew Brumlow, and Ryan Artzberger. The film features Vander Broek as Jill Temple, a single mother still grieving the loss of her young son after he disappeared two years ago. Unable to face the possibility that she has lost him forever, she pursues every lead, regardless of how thin or what risk she has to take – until a man with his own tragic past, played by Brumlow, enters her life.

“*Blur Circle* doesn’t offer simple answers,” says festival co-director Thomas, “but that’s part of the beauty in the story that Elliott and Hansen tell.”

The festival also announces the following three featured panels:

- **Virtual Reality Workshop:** Participants will experience state-of-the-art VR gear and explore the storytelling possibilities of VR.
- **Filmmaking as an Artist-Entrepreneur:** This master class dives deep into the gig-based economy of the independent filmmaker. Learn from Luann Purcell Jennings, an arts entrepreneurship and leadership consultant and educator.
- **Educating Future Filmmakers:** This panel discussion examines where we are going as an industry and how we can prepare ourselves and the next generation of filmmakers.

VIP Pass Members will have access to all panels. VIP passes are now on sale at the Hippodrome or online at <http://bit.ly/DitHFFVIP> . Tickets for individual blocks and 6-pack blocks will be available online by December 20.

“We have world class arts leaders and educators in Waco, and we’re glad to welcome them for Deep in the Heart Film Festival panels and programming,” said festival co-director Louis Hunter. “We’re looking forward to not only connecting the wider filmmaking community with Waco-area artists, but welcoming them to a flourishing cultural district.”

About Deep in the Heart Film Festival

Set in Waco, Texas, the Deep in the Heart Film Festival (DitHFF) runs February 16-19, 2017 and seeks to showcase the best in independent short films and features from Texas, the US and the world. We want to inspire audiences, foster beneficial networking for filmmakers, and show all of our guests some authentic Texas hospitality. For more information visit www.deepintheheartff.com.

About the Waco Hippodrome

The Waco Hippodrome Theatre is a 100 year old theatre in the heart of downtown Waco. The theatre has survived many trials and tribulations including a fire and the devastating tornado of 1953. In 2012 the hippodrome was bought and renovated after sitting vacant and dilapidated for several years. It reopened its doors in 2014 as a dine in movie theatre, bar, restaurant and entertainment venue featuring live music. The Hippodrome looks forward to serving its community for another 100 years. See what we have going on each day at www.wacohippodrometheatre.com and follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @wacohippodrometheatre.

###