



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**2018 RIDGEFIELD INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OPENS WITH PAUL DANO'S DIRECTORIAL DEBUT *WILDLIFE*
STARRING CAREY MULLIGAN & JAKE GYLLENHAAL**

**AND FEATURES SIX FILMS IN COMPETITION FOR THE INAUGURAL
"JOE CONSENTINO EMERGING FILMMAKER AWARD"
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018**

Opening Night Takes Place at The Ridgefield Playhouse, in Ridgefield, CT
Tickets Are on Sale at www.riffct.org

RIDGEFIELD, CT– September 6, 2018– The [Ridgefield International Film Festival](http://www.riffct.org), (RIFF), will open its third annual festival with actor Paul Dano's (*12 Years a Slave, Love & Mercy*) directorial debut film, *Wildlife*. Dano, a 2002 graduate of Wilton High School, in Connecticut, wrote the adapted screenplay along with Zoe Kazan from Richard Ford's American classic. *Wildlife* stars Carey Mulligan, Jake Gyllenhaal, Ed Oxenbrough, and Bill Camp, and centers on the story of a teenage boy who witnesses the decay of his parent's marriage after their move to Montana.

Wildlife had its World Premiere at the Sundance Film Festival garnering glowing reviews. The film was screened at Cannes and will be shown at the upcoming Toronto and London film festivals. ***Wildlife* will now screen at RIFF at the Ridgefield Playhouse** the day before the film opens in a limited theatrical release on October 19, 2018.

"We're so honored to present Paul Dano's extraordinary debut feature, *Wildlife* at the festival this year," says Festival Director Megan Smith-Harris. "Though Paul is only in his 30s, his career already spans more than two decades. The depth of his experience—both in front of and behind the camera—comes through in every frame.

Wildlife (Narrative Feature | 2018 | 104 minutes | Directed by Paul Dano | United States) – 14-year-old Joe is the only child of Jeanette and Jerry—a housewife and a golf pro—in a small town in 1960s Montana. Nearby, an uncontrolled forest fire rages close to the Canadian border, and when Jerry loses his job—and his sense of purpose—he decides to join the cause of fighting the fire, leaving his wife and son to fend for themselves. Suddenly forced into the role of an adult, Joe witnesses his mother's struggle as she tries to keep her head above water. *Wildlife* is A Sight Unseen, Nine Stories production. Producers: Alex Saks, Paul Dano, Oren Moverman, Ann Ruark, Jake Gyllenhaal, Riva Marker. Executive producer: Zoe Kazan.

This year's festival will pay tribute to Ridgefield resident and filmmaker Joe Consentino who passed away earlier this year by establishing the "Joe Consentino Emerging Filmmaker Award." Consentino, a former Boston Red Sox player and successful photographer, was also a director, producer and cinematographer best known for the documentaries *Baghdad Diary* (2007), *Muhammad Ali: The Whole Story* (1996) and the TV series "The Big Blue Marble." He founded the Ridgefield Playhouse Film Society and was renowned in the community for his dedication to the craft of filmmaking and supporting new directors.

Six films—four narratives and two documentaries, by first-time feature filmmakers are in competition for the inaugural award: *Are You Glad I'm Here* directed by Noor Gharzeddine; *Mary Goes Round* directed by Molly McGlynn; *The California No* directed by Ned Ehrbar; *Dad is Pretty* directed by Park-soo-min & Kim seung-

hyeob; *2030* directed by Johnny Boston and *Tre Maison Dasan* directed by Dinali Tiller. **The winner will be announced on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at the Ridgefield Playhouse.** The “Joe Consentino Emerging Filmmaker Award” is presented by Sandra Consentino.

“RIFF is proud to be one of the first film festivals fully committed to 50/50 gender parity,” says Smith-Harris. “We aren’t crafting a pledge or waiting until 2020 to represent women’s voices and sensibilities on the screen. We’re doing it now. There are six feature films nominated for the Joe Consentino Emerging Filmmaker Award. Three of them are directed by women and three of them are directed by men. That just happened naturally. Why? Because we actively sought submissions from women filmmakers from all over the world to even the playing field. Our over-arching mission is to program “films that inspire.” We feel we’ve truly accomplished that with our programming slate and can’t wait to share our picks with RIFF audiences.”

Opening Night will also include a VIP Filmmaker’s Reception following the *Wildlife* screening at the Ridgefield Playhouse. Tickets for Opening Night are on sale at www.riffct.org

The 2018 Ridgefield Independent Film Festival runs October 18-21, 2018.

Hashtag: #RIFFct

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Film Synopsis for Emerging Filmmaker Nominees:

2030 (Documentary | 2018 | 102 minutes | Directed by Johnny Boston | United States) – Johnny Boston was 10 years old when he first met FM-2030, a futurist who intended to live forever. But in 2000, after his body ceased to function, FM was cryonically preserved. Sixteen years later, an unexpected call places FM’s future in Johnny’s hands. *2030* is a Johnny Boston production. Producers: Johnny Boston, Melissa Chesman, Jason Hefter, and Pamela Lubell. Executive Producers: Martin & Orna Boston, Erick Falkenstein, Christine Fulton, and Flora Schnall.

Are You Glad I’m Here (Narrative Feature | 2018 | 85 minutes | Directed by Noor Gharzeddine | United States) – A millennial American girl (Tess Harrison) befriends a Lebanese housewife (Marwa Khalil) in Beirut and disrupts her ordered life; one night they become accidental partners-in-crime. Producers: Elie Deek and Noor Gharzeddine. Executive Producers: Hala Schoukair, Adam Yeremian, Alex Cirillo, and Dani Faith Leonard.

Dad Is Pretty (Narrative Feature | 2017 | 92 minutes | Directed by Park-soo-min & Kim seung-hyeob | Republic of Korea) –Duk-jae is being overlooked at his marketing job and sublimates his unhappiness by getting drunk after work. His boss tells him he’ll be fired if he doesn’t land a contract renewal for Club Hawaii, an establishment where men come to cross-dress in a safe and fun environment. The club owner is willing to renew the contract but only on one condition: that Duk-jae participate to get into the mindset of the membership. Producers: Lee byeong-gil and Cha min-ae.

Mary Goes Round (Narrative Feature | 2017 | 84 minutes | Directed by Molly McGlynn | Canada) – A redemptive drama with darkly comedic undertones about Mary (Aya Cash, *You’re the Worst*), a substance abuse counselor who gets a DUI and retreats to her hometown of Niagara Falls to face her broken relationship with her family and get sober. *Mary Goes Round* is a Wildling Pictures production. Producer: Matt Code. Executive Producer Aeschylus Poulos.

The California No (Narrative Feature | 2018 | 84 minutes | Directed by Ned Ehrbar | United States) – During his first visit to couple’s therapy, a Los Angeles-based junketeer (Noah Segan) discovers that he’s actually in an open marriage—or at least his wife (Ursula Mills) is. The revelation sets off a series of events that upends his personal and professional life and forces him to reconsider everything about himself. *The California No* is a production of Birthday Suit Productions. Producers: Samantha Kern, Coco Quinn, Noah Segan.

Tre Maison Dasan (Documentary | 2018 | 94 minutes | Directed by Denali Tiller | United States) – An intimate portrait of three boys growing up, each with a parent in prison. Directly told through the child’s perspective, the film is an exploration of relationships and separation, masculinity, and the added complexities of coming of age in America when a parent is behind bars. *Tre Maison Dasan* is a Hello World production. Producers: Craig Pilligan, Rebecca Stern and Denali Tiller. Executive Producers: Andrew Freiband.

The 2018 Ridgefield Independent Film Festival will announce its feature film slate on September 11, 2018.

About the Ridgefield International Film Festival

RIFF was established in Ridgefield, CT in 2016. This year, the festival received film submissions from 49 different countries. RIFF will program 77 films from 14 countries around the world, including special event screenings with filmmaker Q&As during the four-day festival.

RIFF is an independent subsidiary of TownVibe Fund, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit entity.

The 2018 Sponsors

Ridgefield International Film Festival is pleased to announce that PepsiCo, TownVibe Media, and Ed & Catherine Romer are the festival’s 2018 Underwriting Sponsors.

The organization would like to thank the following Partner Sponsors for their contributions: Abbey Tent & Party Rentals, Ancona’s Wines & Liquors, Good Morning Wilton, Hamlet Hub, IMG Digital + Inbound, Nicholson Events, Ridgefield Storage Center, and Rodier Flowers.

The festival would also like to show appreciation to the following Patron Sponsors: Nick & Anita Donofrio, Woodson & Christina Duncan, Steven & Liz Goldstone, and Jon & Allison Stockel.

The 2018 Screening Sponsors are: Ridgefield Playhouse for Movies and Performing Arts, Ridgefield Library, Ridgefield Theater Barn, Ridgefield Conservatory of Dance, Keeler Tavern Museum, and the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.

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