

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kelly McGillis and Lisa Eichhorn Featured at the Fifth Annual Greater Reading Film Festival**

READING, PA – Celebrating “Women in Film” and local female film professionals, the Berks Arts Council is pleased to announce the special guests attending and lineup of films selected to screen during the Fifth Annual Greater Reading Film Festival (GRFF) beginning Friday, Nov. 5, through Sunday, Nov. 14, at the R/C Movies 11 & IMAX, 30 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Screenings range from Hollywood blockbusters to documentaries with local interest, and include independent films representing 16 countries.

Actress and former Berks resident Kelly McGillis will open the festival on Friday, Nov. 5, with a special celebration, in conjunction with Berks Women in Crisis, at the Cohen Gallery in the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington St., followed by a screening of “*The Accused*” at 7 p.m. in the R/C Movies 11 & IMAX, with a filmmaker Q&A panel after the screening. She will also attend a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary showing of “*Witness*” in the R/C Theatres, followed by a filmmaker Q&A on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. Berks native, actress Lisa Eichhorn, will join Ms. McGillis and other local female film professionals for a Women In Film Symposium in the R/C Theatres on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m.

Ms. Eichhorn’s films take center stage during the festival’s second weekend, with the screening of “*A Modern Affair*” on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., followed by a Q&A panel. Closing the festival on Sunday, Nov. 14, at 3 p.m. will be a screening of “*...Around*” produced by Ms. Eichhorn and directed by David Spaltro, who will both be panelists for the filmmaker Q&A following the film, then followed by the festival’s closing ceremonies.

“It is thrilling to be able to bring professional performing artists of such a high caliber as Kelly McGillis and Lisa Eichhorn to Greater Reading to participate in a festival that is addressing women’s issues,” stated Chris Cannon, Executive Director. “This is only the beginning of a new focus for the Berks Arts Council on how relevant, social issues are addressed and portrayed in the various forms of artistic expression. I’m excited that we can be a part of this process.”

This year’s festival attracted over 180 films from around the world in competition for the GRFF prizes, with 35 films from 16 countries selected for screening. Cash awards are given annually to the top narrative feature and documentary films, and to the top short films in three award categories: Adult/Post-College, College, and High School, as selected by the GRFF programming committee. This year’s narrative feature film winner of \$1000 is “*Backyard*” (Mexico), a stunning portrayal of the violence against women in

Ciudad Juarez, directed by Carlos Carrera. “*Backyard*” screens Friday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m., and will be hosted by The Latina Gathering, followed by a panel discussion.

This year’s documentary film winner of \$1000 is “*Gasland*” (USA), a powerful film outlining the risks associated with natural gas collection from the Marcellus Shale, directed by Josh Fox. *Gasland* will screen Thursday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m., hosted by the League of Women Voters, and will be followed by a panel discussion.

Winning short films each receive a \$250 cash award, and all of this year’s winners will screen in the Short Film Showcase on Saturday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m. The 2010 short film award winners are: Adult/Post-College – “*God of Love*” (USA), written and directed by Luke Matheny; College – “*PING!*” (USA), written and directed by Jason Oshman, Penn State University at University Park; and High School – “*Crippled*” (South Korea), written and directed by Ien Chen, Seoul Foreign School, Duluth, GA.

Sunday, Nov. 7, is “Women in Film Day” with special screenings and activities featuring women’s issues and female filmmakers. Many of the films screening that day, as well as over the course of the ten-day festival, will be followed by panel discussions featuring the filmmakers or local experts pursuant to the film’s topic.

The GRFF All-Access Pass, which includes attendance at the opening and closing receptions and admission to all films, symposiums and discussions, is \$100. Special weekend passes are also available: opening weekend passes (Nov. 5-7) for all receptions, events, screenings and activities, are \$70, and closing weekend passes (Nov. 11-14) for all receptions, events, screenings and activities, are \$50. Special film and event screening ticket prices vary from \$15-\$25, and single ticket pricing for the festival’s independent films is \$7, which includes admission to post-discussion panels. Tickets for all screenings and events will be available beginning Oct. 11, at [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com), as well as complete screening schedule and event information on [www.readingfilmfestival.com](http://www.readingfilmfestival.com).

The Berks Arts Council presents the Berks Jazz Fest, the Bandshell Concert Series, Greater Reading Film Festival, the Pagoda Awards, the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Re-Grant Program, and provides art exhibition and marketing opportunities for member artists. Visit them at [www.berksarts.org](http://www.berksarts.org).

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