



AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 SCREENPLAY AND TELEPLAY COMPETITION WINNERS

AUSTIN, Texas — Oct. 24, 2009 — The Austin Film Festival (AFF) is pleased to announce its 2009 Screenplay and Teleplay Competition winners. Winners received cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, reimbursements for travel and lodging while at the festival, and access to and recognition from some of the most important writers, agents, producers and filmmakers in the industry. Almost 4,000 submissions were received this year, and the top 1% have been reviewed by an industry jury including Herschel Weingrod, producer of “Falling Down” and screenwriter of “Trading Places,” “Twins,” and “Kindergarten Cop,” and Kirsten Smith, independent producer and screenwriter whose credits include “10 Things I Hate About You,” “Legally Blonde,” and “Whip It.”

The following winners were selected by category:

Drama Screenplay: *Pure* by Jeff Williams

Comedy Screenplay: *Eight Knights* by Caroline Carrigan

Latitude Productions Screenplay Award (This award is sponsored by Los Angeles-based motion picture production company Latitude Productions, which was founded by company President Curtis Burch.):

Palmer by Cheryl Guerriero

Sci-Fi Screenplay: *The Sensitivity Program* by John Harden and Skot Christopherson

Drama Teleplay: *Medium: Crush* by Joey Hargrove

Sitcom Teleplay: *The Office: It's Not Easy Being Green* by Benjamin Healy

In its 16 year history, the AFF Screenplay and Teleplay Competition has served to jumpstart many writing careers. In the competition's first year, screenplay competition winner Max Adams' script “Excess Baggage” was optioned by Columbia and made into a film starring Alicia Silverstone and Benicio Del Toro. Pamela Ribon, a finalist in the Sitcom category in 2001, is now a writer for ABC hit series “Samantha Who?” Matthew Federman and Stephen Scaia, 2003 Drama Teleplay Winners, began careers in writing for TV after their trip to Austin in 2003. The pair has written for shows including CBS' “Judging Amy,” ABC's “E-ring,” and the entire run of “Jericho.”

The Austin Film Festival will begin accepting submissions for the 2010 competition starting January 1, 2010. To learn more visit www.austinfilmfestival.com.

About the Austin Film Festival

The Austin Film Festival (AFF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the art, craft and business of writers and filmmakers and recognizing their contributions to film, television and new media. The AFF champions the work of aspiring and established writers and filmmakers by providing

unique cultural events and services, enhancing public awareness and participation, and encouraging dynamic and long-lasting community partnerships. www.austinfilmfestival.com

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