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### **Wild Rose Independent Film Festival Awards Top Filmmakers**

The 2009 Wild Rose Independent Film Festival highlighted its 7<sup>th</sup> annual event with an inspiring Keynote Speech given by independent film champion, John Putch of Putch Films, during its Awards Ceremony Saturday held at the State Historical Building of Iowa where the WRIFF winners were announced to an audience which included filmmakers from Iowa and across the world. Putch is known for his highly quality, award-winning micro budget indie films, *Route 30* and *Mojave Phone Booth*, as well as for his Hollywood directing credits of *Ugly Betty*, *Scrubs* and *My Name is Earl*.

The 2009 Wild Rose spanned four days with screenings, educational opportunities and film advocacy. In addition to the four days of screenings, the WRIFF included an “Auditioning Skills Workshop” taught by LA actress, acting coach and casting director, Jamie Rose of JRose Studio and a “No Budget Independent Filmmaking Seminar” held by John Putch. A “State of the Industry” meeting was co-sponsored by the Iowa Motion Picture Association (also one of the festival sponsors) and the Wild Rose. Video testimonials promoting filmmaking and advocating restoring the film tax incentives program in Iowa were taped and will be made available to lawmakers and posted on websites.

The WRIFF culminated on Sunday with AriesWorks Entertainment’s special premiere Des Moines screening of the Iowa independent feature film, *Haunting Villisca*, based on the unsolved 1912 Villisca Axe murders and the current paranormal activity in the house where the crime took place. The film (not in competition at the festival) played to a packed house. *Haunting Villisca* is an Iowa film directed by James Serpento and produced by Kimberly Busbee and also was co-written by them.

This year’s WRIFF showcased 35 short, animated, documentary, music and feature films from Iowa, the U.S. and other countries, including Canada, the UK, France, Japan, Germany, China and Mexico. These selected films were juried into the Wild Rose from a pool of over 200 submitted films. The Wild Rose Independent Film Festival gives two types of awards to the winners; the top level award is named “Best of” and “Certificate of Distinctive Achievement” is the runner up award. Over fifty awards were given.

Festival Sponsors include:

The Greater Des Moines Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Travel Center, Iles Funeral Homes, Iowa Motion Picture Association, Iowa Scriptwriters Alliance, Iowa State Bank, M&M Sales/Konica-Minolta, the Hotel Fort Des Moines and the Robert William Mickle Center.

## **The 2009 Wild Rose Independent Film Festival Winners**

### **Best Feature:**

***The Things We Carry*** (CA) (Ian McCrudden - Director;  
Athena Lobit, Alyssa Lobit - Producers)

### **Feature Certificate of Distinctive Achievement (CDA):**

***Son of the Sunshine*** (Canada) (Ryan Ward, Director; Paul Fler, Producer)

### **Best Iowa Film:**

***Ghost Player: Relive the Magic*** (IA) (Joe Scherrman);

### **Iowa Film CDA:**

***Hitmom*** (IA) (Joe Clarke)

### **Best Ensemble/Casting:**

***Son of the Sunshine*** (Canada) (Crystal Kramer)

### **Ensemble/Casting CDAs (tie):**

***The Things We Carry*** (CA) (Freddy Luis);

***Putting Down Puffy*** (CA) (Joe Adams)

### **Best Director:**

**Ryan Ward** (Canada) (*Son of the Sunshine*)

### **Director CDA:**

**Tim Reischauer** (CA) (*Slice of Pie*)

### **Best Actress:**

**Alyssa Lobit** (CA) (*The Things We Carry*)

### **Actress CDAs (tie):**

**Catherine Kresge** (CA) (*The Things We Carry*);

**Rebecca McMahon** (Canada) (*Son of the Sunshine*)

### **Best Actor:**

**Ryan Ward** (Canada) (*Son of the Sunshine*)

### **Actor CDA:**

**Rick Hall** (CA) (*Slice of Pie*)

### **Best Cinematography:**

***Chance of a Lifetime*** (UK) (Sandy Crichton)

### **Cinematography CDAs (tie):**

***The Beneficiary*** (CA) (Mateo Londono);

***Putting Down Puffy*** (CA) (Ben Brunkhardt)

### **Best Screenplay:**

***The Things We Carry*** (CA) (Alyssa Lobit)

### **Screenplay CDA:**

***Slice of Pie*** CA (Rick Hall)

**Best Debut Film:**

***The Guy Chronicles*** (CA) (Aaron Riggs, Ryan Kohler)

**Debut Film CDA:**

***The Hands*** (CA) (Charise Studesville)

**Best Short Film:**

***Slice of Pie*** (CA) (Tim Reischauer - Director/Producer, Rick Hall - Writer/Producer)

**Short Film CDAs (tie):**

***Putting Down Puffy*** (CA) (Hugh Scott);

***The Beneficiary*** (CA) (Theodore Melfi)

**Best Original Music:**

***Son of the Sunshine*** (Canada) (Mathew Montour)

**Music CDA:**

***Slice of Pie*** (CA) (Laura Hall)

**Best Documentary:**

***Chance of a Lifetime*** (UK) (Sandy Crichton)

**Documentary CDA:**

***Ghost Player: Relive the Magic*** (IA) (Joe Scherrman)

**Best Short Documentary:**

***The Marina Experiment*** (NY) (Marina Lutz)

**Short Documentary CDA:**

***Throwing Plates: A Portrait of a Woman Ceramicist*** (IL) (Deidre Lee)

**Best Music Documentary:**

***No Good Reason*** (MI) (Lawrence Marshall)

**Best Musical Short:**

***The Line*** (CA) (Richard Sabatté - Director/Co-Writer,  
Anita Merzell - Exec. Producer/Co-Writer)

**Best Animation:**

***Skylight*** (Canada) (David Baas)

**Animation CDA:**

***Lilium*** (CA) (Adam Burgett)

**Best Editing:**

***Vamoose*** (TX/IA) (Jose and Francisco Rodriguez)

**Editing CDA:**

***Putting Down Puffy*** (CA) (James Yuan)

**Best Costume Design:**

***The Things We Carry*** (CA) (Jayme Bohn, Jennifer Standley)

**Costumes CDA:**

***A War for II*** (IA) (Braden Boe, Casey Kappes)

**Best Production Design:**

*The Things We Carry* (CA) (Danielle Osborne)

**Production Design CDA:**

*Putting Down Puffy* (CA) (Nancy Scott)

**Best Visual Effects:**

*Willful Entrapment* (Canada) (Francois Driessen, Christopher Arnold)

**Visual Effects CDA:**

*Son of the Sunshine* (Canada) (Chris Drover)

**Best Sound Design:**

*Son of the Sunshine* (Canada)(Sean W. Karp)

**Sound Design CDA:**

*Willful Entrapment* (Canada) (Dmytro Velichenko, Michael Tompkins)

**Best Makeup:**

*Son of the Sunshine* (Canada) (Cathy Congiusti)

**Makeup CDA:**

*Vamoose* (IA/TX) (Francisco Rodriguez)

**Best Student Film – College:**

*20 Mississippi* (NY) (Michael Brettler, Writer/Director)

**Student Film – College CDA:**

*The Guy Chronicles* (CA) (Aaron Riggs, Ryan Kohler)

**Best Student Mini-Pic – College:**

*Sara's Portraits* (IA/CA) (Jill Jones, Writer/Director)

**Student Mini-Pic CDA – College (tie):**

*Good Night Victor* (TX ) (Andrew Grissom);

*Lilum* (Derek Page) (CA)

**Best Student Film – High School:**

*The Lullabye* (IA )(Jessie Hixenbaugh, Aly Merschman)

**Student Film – High School CDA:**

*Shoot* (IA) (Lucas Baty)

**Audience Award**

*Vamoose* (TX/IA) (Jose and Francisco Rodriguez)

-End of Release-