



NBC UNIVERSAL TAKES TALENT DIVERSITY TO BOLD NEW HEIGHTS

FIFTH-ANNUAL 'SHORT CUTS' FILM FESTIVAL SALUTES TOP FINALISTS FILMMAKERS AT GRAND FINALE SCREENING

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. – October 26, 2010 -- NBC Universal announced the top finalists at the grand finale of its fifth-annual "Short Cuts" Film Festival on October 20 at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Theater in Los Angeles. The event was hosted by Craig Robinson of NBC's "The Office" and Olivia Munn of NBC's upcoming series "Perfect Couples."

Now in its fifth-consecutive year, NBC Universal's "Short Cuts" Film Festival has earned its place as the authority on delivering new diverse voices to the film and television industry. The program is championed by Kendra Carter, Director of NBC Universal's Talent Diversity Initiatives.

"NBC Universal continues to push boundaries as a leading showcase for multi-cultural expression, both in the growth of our submission categories and in the enhanced quality of our awards structure," said Carter. "Our constant goal is to discover, develop and present cutting-edge work from a diverse perspective to our colleagues within the NBC Universal family and the entertainment industry at large."

The finalist films were presented in three major categories to include: Best Short Film, Best Actor within a Film, and Best Director. This year's honorees are director/co-writer Viet Nguyen and co-writer Christopher Dinh for "Crush the Skull"; Randall Park for "Blueberry," and Julius Onah, writer/director of "The Boundary."

Ultimately, Onah's "The Boundary" received the award for Best Director and earned him a finalist position in the NBC Director Fellowship program. For Best Actor, Park's performance in "Blueberry" allowed him to receive a one-year NBC Universal Talent Holding Deal. Likewise, co-writers Nguyen and Dinh received a blind script deal with NBC Universal. Additional prizes include: meetings with NBCU executives; an NBCU Digital Studio Opportunity; a Panavision camera package donation valued at \$60,000; and a creative concept commercial assignment granted by Burrell Communications, a top multi-cultural advertising agency.

"I would like to congratulate this year's filmmakers for their amazing shorts," said Wil Sylvince, founder of the "Short Cuts" Film Festival. "I also want to thank NBC Universal and the entire industry for their commitment and support for diverse creative content. The NBC 'Short Cuts' Film Festival has made its mark. It has become the ultimate platform for diverse writers, directors and actors to gain feedback from industry leaders while establishing notoriety for their creative work."

"Short Cuts" Film Festival is a company-wide initiative and is one of many live events produced by NBC's Talent Diversity Initiative with the goal of cultivating diversity both in front of and behind the camera. This year's panel of judges include Jeff Ingold (NBC Comedy Programming), Grace Wu (NBC Casting), Franklin Leonard (Universal Pictures), Quan Phung (Stuber Productions), Karen O'Hara (Syfy) and Karen Horne (NBC Entertainment Programs).

Selected from over 1,500 submissions, this year's finalists included: Joshua Funk, (writer/director of "Undocumented Worker: The Audition"); Debby Wolfe, (writer/director of "Gordita"); Sterlin Harjo (writer/director of "Three Little Boys") and Francisco Ordonez, (writer/director of "Cookie"). Semi-finalist films were screened earlier before an industry audience in conjunction with the New York Television Festival on September 22.

Corporate support for this year's initiative came from sponsors such as The Hollywood Reporter, Burrell Communications, Panavision, the Sheraton Universal Hotel, CIROC and Web Solutions MD.

"It's a great honor for Burrell Communications to partner with NBC Universal 'Short Cuts' Film Festival to create opportunities for the next generation of young filmmakers and storytellers," said Lewis Williams, Chief Creative Officer of Burrell Communications. "Burrell has always made it a priority to provide an outlet for creative individuals to showcase their talent and skills. These opportunities are crucial to the diversity of ideas, content and talent in the film and advertising industry. We applaud this year's finalists and winners."

NBC Universal's "Short Cuts" Film Festival was founded with actor/writer/comedian Sylvince in 2005 to display and celebrate diversity in the entertainment industry. The objective is to allow creative individuals with diverse perspectives the opportunity to present their material in front of key decision makers within the industry. When Sylvince is not working on the "Short Cuts" Film Festival, he performs on the national comedy circuit, including college campuses, and in festivals worldwide.

For additional information, please visit: WWW.NBCSHORTCUTS.COM

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