



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Friends of the Festival Presents the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**

**TAMPA, August 1, 2013** — TIGLFF, the 5<sup>th</sup> largest LGBT oriented Film Festival announced the dates for the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival which will take place, Friday, October 4 - Saturday, October 12. As in years past, the main festival venue will be the Tampa Theatre (711 N. Franklin St, Tampa), and the St Petersburg venue will be the Baywalk Muvico (151 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, North St. Pete).

President and Board Chairman, Jason A. Stewart said, “The festival is coming and this is going to be an exceptional year.” The festival season will kick-off with a newly expanded Launch Party at the Tampa Museum of Art on September 19, 2013, featuring entertainment and the introduction of the newly developed TIGLFF iPhone Event App. and mobile optimized website.

The festival opening night event commences on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 o’clock in the evening with a star-studded Orange Carpet with food and entertainment in front of the Tampa Theatre immediately followed by the festival opening night film, *THE HAPPY SAD*, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Rodney Evans. This film was a festival favorite when it premiered in June at San Francisco’s Frameline LGBT Film Festival. “*THE HAPPY SAD* will appeal to various demographics within the community and what makes this year special is that Our Opening Night Film is FREE for everyone to attend, made possible by Alan Ira Dusowitz Friends of the Festival Fund and Reeve’s Import Motorcars,” Stewart said. The opening night Orange Party, immediately following the film, will be held at The Vault located only one block from the Tampa Theatre.

Closing night’s film will be *G.B.F.* followed by a closing night party. INDIEwire reported this week, “the film [*G.B.F.*] has a cast of young up-and-comers including Sasha Pieterse (*Pretty Little Liars*), Evanna Lynch (*The Harry Potter Franchise*), Natasha Lyonne (*Orange is the New Black*), Joanna "JoJo" Levesque (*RV*, "*Aquamarine*"), Paul Iacono (*The Hard Times of RJ Berger*), Michael J. Willett (*United States of Tara*), Molly Tarlov (*Awkward*), and Rebecca Gayheart (*Jawbreaker*) and features Megan Mullally (*Parks and Recreation*, "*The Kings of Summer*" and most notably known for her role Karen Walker in "*Will & Grace*").”

"It's an exciting time to be leading the Festival's Board of Director's and I am confident that 2013 will be a year that we increase our reach and impact our patrons with films that create

meaningful interactions, offering a fresh perspective to our identity and building the necessary momentum needed to take us to the next level as we approach the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TIGLFF in 2014," Stewart said.

**For access to preview screeners or advertising options, please contact Festival Director, Renee Cossette at (813) 879-4220.**

### **About TIGLFF**

Friends of the Festival, Inc. (FOF) is the name of non-profit (501c3) organization that produces the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, which began in 1990 through the outreach of several local community based organizations. The organization's mission is to continually showcase selections of compelling film and relevant digital media that entertain, empower and enlighten a diverse audience by, for or regarding the LGBT community and its supporters through the sharing of personal experiences surrounding thoughtful discussion.

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