2013 ACADEMY NICHOLL FELLOWSHIPS IN SCREENWRITING FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

September 27, 2013

BEVERLY HILLS, CA (RPRN) 09/27/13 — Nine individual screenwriters and one writing team have been selected as finalists for the 2013 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting competition. Their scripts will now be read and judged by the Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee, which may award as many as five of the prestigious $35,000 fellowships.

This year's finalists are (listed alphabetically by author):

Scott Adams, Menlo Park, CA, "Slingshot"
William Casey, Los Angeles, CA, "Smut"
Frank DeJohn & David Alton Hedges, Santa Ynez, CA, "Legion"
Brian Forrester, Studio City, CA, "Heart of the Monstyr"
Noah Thomas Grossman, Los Angeles, CA, "The Cupid Code"
Patty Jones, Vancouver, BC, Canada, "Joe Banks"
Erin KLG, New York, NY, "Lost Children"
Alan Roth, Suffern, NY, "Jersey City Story"
Stephanie Shannon, Los Angeles, CA, "Queen of Hearts"
Barbara Stepansky, Burbank, CA, "Sugar in My Veins"

The finalists were selected from a record 7,251 scripts submitted for this year's competition.

The 2013 Academy Nicholl Fellowships will be presented on Thursday, November 7, at a ceremony in Beverly Hills.

The Nicholl competition is open to any individual who has not earned more than $25,000 writing for film or television or

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received a fellowship prize that includes a “first look” clause, an option, or any other quid pro quo involving the writer’s work. Entry scripts must be feature length and the original work of a sole author or of exactly two collaborative authors. The scripts must have been written originally in English. Adaptations and translated scripts are not eligible. The earnings limit for 2013 is an increase from the $5,000 limit in previous years.

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Fellowships are awarded with the understanding that the recipients will each complete a feature-length screenplay during their fellowship year. The Academy acquires no rights to the works of Nicholl fellows and does not involve itself commercially in any way with their completed scripts.

The Academy Nicholl Fellowships Committee, chaired by producer Gale Anne Hurd, is composed of writers Naomi Foner, Daniel Petrie Jr., Tom Rickman, Eric Roth, Dana Stevens and Robin Swicord; actor Eva Marie Saint; cinematographer John Bailey; costume designer Vicki Sanchez; producers Peter Samuelson and Robert W. Shapiro; marketing executive Buffy Shutt; and agent Ronald R. Mardigian.

Since the program's inception in 1985, 128 fellowships have been awarded. Several past Nicholl fellows have recently added to their achievements. Destin Daniel Cretton wrote and directed “Short Term 12” from his Nicholl Fellowship-winning script; the feature has received tremendous critical acclaim this year at screenings at international festivals and in theatrical release. Creighton Rothenberger co-wrote “Olympus Has Fallen,” which opened in theaters this past March. Several fellows currently have projects in post-production: Cecilia Contreras and Amy Garcia wrote “Dear Eleanor”; Anthony Jaswinski wrote “Random”; Karen Moncrieff wrote and directed “The Trials of Cate McCall”; and James Mottern directed “God Only Knows.” Rebecca Sonnenshine is a writer and executive story editor on “The Vampire Diaries” on The CW. Andrew Marlowe is a writer and executive producer, and Terri Edda Miller is a writer and consulting producer, on “Castle” on ABC.

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ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is the world's preeminent movie-related organization, with a membership of more than 6,000 of the most accomplished men and women working in cinema. In addition to the annual Academy Awards–in which the members vote to select the nominees and winners–Academy presents a diverse year-round slate of public programs, exhibitions and events; provides financial support to a wide range of other movie-related organizations and endeavors; acts as a neutral advocate in the advancement of motion

picture technology; and, through its Margaret Herrick Library and Academy Film Archive, collects, preserves, restores and provides access to movies and items related to their history. Through these and other activities the Academy serves students, historians, the entertainment industry and people everywhere who love movies.

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Meet Anne. Listen to her discuss the power of social media - Part 1

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