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Media Contact:
Big Time PR
Sylvia Desrochers
Sylvia@bigtimetoday.com
424-208-3496

FIRST ANNUAL LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2013 DISTINGUISHED JURY MEMBERS

*Festival also announces Panel Discussion:
"How to Make the Most Out of Your Short Film"*

LA COSTA, CA (October 17, 2013) – The La Costa Film Festival (www.lacostafilmfestival.org) announced today its 2013 jury, as well as a panel discussion about short filmmaking that will take place during the festival, which runs October 24-27, 2013 at the world famous Omni La Costa Resort and Spa.

From professional athletes to Academy Award winners, this year's Jury will announce the grand prize winners of the festival's signature Sports Competition at an Awards Ceremony on October 26. The ceremony will take place just prior to the screening of the closing night film, *AT MIDDLETON*, starring Andy Garcia and Vera Farmiga.

The jury includes: former Chargers NFL kicker **John Carney**; former Laker and current CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad, **Brad Holland**; actor **William Mapother** (*Another Earth, Lost*), Academy Award winning filmmaker **Freida Lee Mock** (*Maya Lin: A Strong Vision, Anita*); and Sports Director of San Diego's KUSI-TV, **Paul Rudy**.

The juried sports competition includes a variety of compelling documentary features: *THE CRASH REEL* follows snowboarder Kevin Pearce and the traumatic brain injury that kept him from competing for Gold in 2010; *MAIDENTRIP* reveals the journey of Laura Dekker, the youngest person to ever sail around the world

alone; MCCONKEY is about Shane McConkey, a revered pioneer of free-skiing and ski-BASE jumping; and the story of two young surfers who battle nature in a remote, arctic island in Northern Norway in order to catch the perfect wave is the focus of NORTH OF THE SUN. The opening night film, THE SHORT GAME, will also compete.

Shorts in competition include: SLOMO, THE RED PILL, CROOKED LINES, and MAGNESIUM.

The festival will also feature a free panel discussion on Saturday, October 26 at 1:00pm at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa. "How to Make the Most of Your Short Film" features a line-up of industry experts, including: **Lauren Avinoam**, a consultant for short film marketing and festival strategy; comedian, actor, and director **Jeff Grace**; programmer for the Newport Beach Film Festival, **Max Naylor**; and **Jacques Thelemaque**, filmmaker and former Chief Community Officer at Withoutabox.com. The panel will be moderated by **Elliot V. Kotek**, Editor-in-Chief of *Beyond Cinema* magazine and Celebs.com. Kotek is a filmmaker as well, having written and produced a number of feature and short films.

More information about the festival, including the full schedule of films and events, can be found at: <http://www.lacostafilmfestival.org>.

Tickets and Passes

The inaugural La Costa Film Festival runs October 24-27 at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, located at 2100 Costa Del Mar Road in Carlsbad, CA. Additional screenings will take place at nearby venues, including Cinepolis Theaters and the Ruby G. Schulman Theater. Festival Passes and individual screening tickets are currently on sale at the festival's website. For more information please visit www.lacostafilmfestival.org or follow us on Twitter (@LaCostaFilmFest).

ABOUT THE LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL

Founded by La Costa residents Michael and Ruby Callihan in 2013, The La Costa Film Festival will deliver a new cultural experience to North San Diego County, integrating a series of film screenings, panels, retrospectives, and gala events in celebration of the art and impact of motion pictures. All net proceeds of the festival will go to the local Boys & Girls Clubs of Carlsbad.

The annual event will showcase some of the most engaging international documentaries, narrative features, and short films of the past year and present them in a variety of unique local venues. The Opening Night Gala will feature a red carpet and a screening under the stars on the beautiful grounds of the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. Additional screenings will be offered at the nearby, luxurious La Costa Cinepolis Theaters, as well as the spacious Ruby G. Schulman Theater, at the Carlsbad Dove Library next door to the Resort. Film enthusiasts may join in Q&As and mingle with participating filmmakers as well as celebrity guests at numerous intimate parties where all pass-holders are welcome.

ABOUT OMNI LA COSTA RESORT AND SPA

Fresh from a \$50 million renovation and nestled among the beautiful coastal foothills of Carlsbad, Calif., Omni La Costa Resort & Spa boasts a new look with no part of the resort untouched. California's original destination for Mind, Body + Sport, Omni La Costa's re-designed areas include 607 newly imagined guestrooms and suites, an adult-only pool venue, the Coastal Events Center featuring 110,000 square feet of meeting and event space, an expanded Athletic Club as well as two golf courses, including the all-new Champions Course, recognized by *Golf* magazine as "Southern California's Only Gold Medal Golf Resort." Honored as the #1 Wellness Spa in the Nation by *Spa* magazine, the 43,000-square-foot Spa at Omni La Costa includes a private pool, café and therapeutic reflexology path. Acclaimed restaurants – Legends Bistro and BlueFire Grill – present an updated take on locally inspired cuisine and culinary delights prepared by Chef Gregory Frey, Jr. For more information on Omni La Costa, call (800) 854-5000 or visit www.lacosta.com.