

SONOMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15th Annual Sonoma International Film Festival Seeks Volunteers

(February 8, 2011) Sonoma, CA – Each year, the Sonoma International Film Festival relies on volunteers to make this unique cultural event a success. “Volunteering is a way to meet new people, see old friends and be an integral part of the Festival,” says Sonoma International Film Festival Director of Operations, Mary Catherine Cutcliffe. This year, the festival is hosting a Volunteer Rally on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 6pm at The Vintage House in Stone Hall (264 First Street, Sonoma). New and returning volunteers are invited to attend the first volunteer orientation where staff will give an overview with exciting information about the upcoming festival (April 11-15, 2012).

Volunteers can sign up online at <http://www.sonomafilmfest.org/volunteer-application/> if they are unable to attend the Rally.

A SIFF veteran and devoted volunteer herself, Kim Enzensperger will return as Volunteer Coordinator for the 15th annual festival. Enzensperger acted as festival Volunteer Coordinator in 2002 and 2003. Between 2004 and 2010 Kim managed both Sebastiani Theater and The House of Docs as festival venues before returning last year to her previous role as Volunteer Coordinator. “I love the film festival. I love working with Kevin, Mary Catherine & Ginny. I am happy to offer my time in support of this amazing community resource by recruiting and organizing the volunteers that make the festival come alive. And since our festival is such a unique cultural asset that benefits our local high school, I also do this for the town of Sonoma – a place I’m really proud of!”

As many as 400 volunteers are needed to greet visitors, act as ushers at screenings, work the parties and events, provide hospitality for filmmakers, be available as ‘runners,’ help with pre-festival production, pour beer & wine, and to offer technical expertise. Volunteers from previous years rave about the experience of being among the festival’s inner circle and the lasting friendships that are forged through the Festival experience. In addition to these benefits, volunteers are rewarded for their work with tickets to films and a volunteer badge that provides access to the ‘Backlot’ or festival “hub” with its chic lounge environment, refreshments and festival VIP’s mingling among the crowd.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the Sonoma International Film Festival is encouraged to attend the February 16th meeting at Vintage House at 6 p.m. You may also apply to the

volunteer program online at: <http://www.sonomafilmfest.org/volunteer-application/>. Any questions should be directed to Kim at: 707-548-8465.

About The Sonoma International Film Festival

Founded in 1997, Sonoma International Film Festival takes pride in showcasing emerging talent, providing a supportive environment for filmmakers, and creating a rich cultural asset for Northern California's wine country.

As one of the nation's top ten destination film festivals, SIFF is uniquely positioned as a lively celebration of film, food, wine and music. An annual gathering for film industry insiders, filmmakers, critics, and cinema enthusiasts, SIFF takes place in one of the most scenic and epicurean places in the world to experience the art of film.

SIFF has screened films that have gone on to major theatrical release including: *Bhutto*; *The Cove*; *Dressed*; *Bag-It*; *Humpday*; *Lemon Tree*; *Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead*; and *The 500 Days of Summer*. The festival's reputation has encouraged film luminaries including Susan Sarandon, John Lasseter, Bruce Willis, Michael Keaton, Robin Williams, Lauren Hutton, Danny Glover and Saul Zaentz to attend and actively participate in discussion panels and in interviews.

The festival success story has also been reflected in its growing recognition within film festival circles and the entertainment industry. Last June, SIFF won a Golden Trailer Award for Best Film Festival Trailer (*Tipsy*) and Best Film Festival Poster at the awards show held in Los Angeles.

Sonoma International Film Festival incorporates all that is glamorous, exotic, unusual and extraordinary about the film world and delivers it in one of the most beautiful destinations in the world.

SIFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The Festival supports the Sonoma Valley High School Media Arts program established over a decade ago by the Sonoma Film Society. For information, local travel advice and ticket sales, please contact the SIFF headquarters:

Phone (707) 933-2600
103 E. Napa Street, Sonoma, CA 95476
www.sonomafilmfest.org
<http://www.facebook.com/sonomafilmfestival>
<http://www.twitter.com/sonomafilmfest>

###

Media Contact

Brooke Conner Sevenau
Studio Seven PR
707-934-5631
brooke@studiosevenpr.com
<http://studiosevenpr.com/>