



CoverStory

PAGES 18 & 19 • ISLANDER
• JUNE 3, 2011

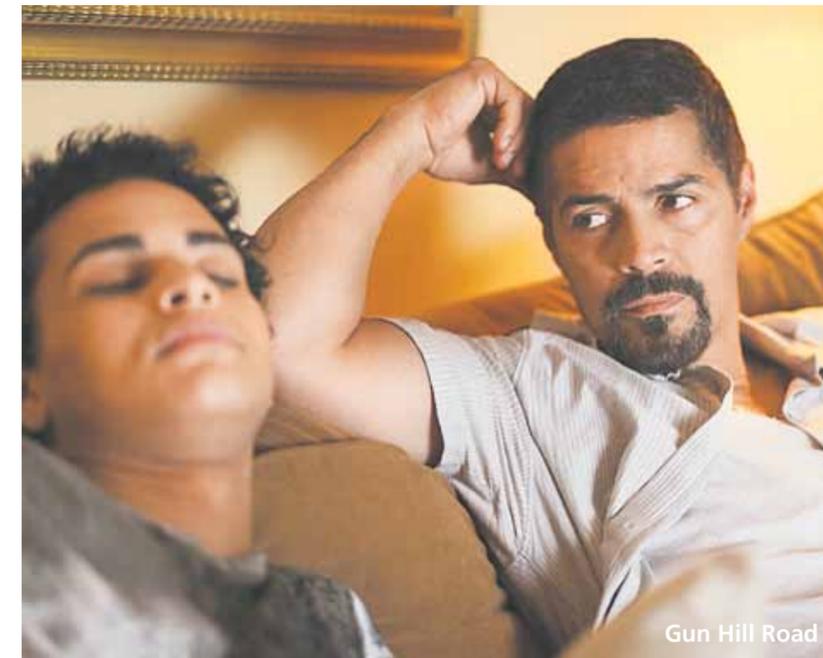
Salvation Boulevard



Death, Taxes and Apple Juice



Surrogate Valentine



Gun Hill Road

Fantastic films

Third annual Lighthouse International Film Festival opens today on LBI

By Susan Bloom For NJ Press Media

Today through Sunday, thousands are expected to turn out for one of LBI's most important new cultural events – its annual Lighthouse International Film Festival.

First launched in 2009, the film festival was established on LBI by longtime summer residents and film enthusiasts Charlie Prince and Eric Johnson, the festival's executive director and managing director, respectively, "to provide new filmmakers with a venue for their work and to bring the LBI community cutting-edge, independent films from festivals around the world," said Christine Rooney, volunteer

coordinator and festival organizer.

The 2011 festival will feature more than 50 international, independent, surfing, student and children's films and documentaries and will showcase films that have premiered at such venues as Sundance, Cannes, Tribeca, Berlin and South By Southwest.

"This year, we're excited to have secured 'Salvation Boulevard' with Marisa Tomei and Ed Harris as well as a variety of other quality films including 'Surrogate Valentine,' 'Skew,' 'Crime After Crime,' 'The Troll Hunter' from Norway, the environmental film 'Atlantic Crossing' and 'Prairie Love,' which boasts crew members from New Jersey," Rooney said.

According to Rooney, "we're also proud to offer the New Jersey premiere of 'The Fallen Faithful,' a film produced by Jersey City-based PJ Leonard that examines a protagonist's struggle between good and evil.

"For filmmakers, producers and actors, film festivals offer great networking opportunities and enable you to watch how audiences react to your film so you can incorporate that feedback into your next project," Leonard, 48, said. "This is my first year in the Lighthouse Festival, and I didn't hesitate when I was invited to participate because it's probably the classiest, most well-run film festival in the state of New Jersey.

"Though fairly new to the scene," he said, "the quality of the projects they're bringing to LBI is extremely high. This festival could go from a seed to a tree and really grow into something major."

According to Rooney, film screenings during the weekend will take place at three locations – the Long Beach Island Foundation of the Arts & Sciences in Loveladies, Ship Bottom Elementary School, and the LBI Historical Museum in Beach Haven – enabling people from all over LBI to participate. Attendees can buy tickets to any of the events separately, or can purchase an all-access pass for \$125, which provides entree to all screenings, parties and events, including the popular "Breakfast

With Filmmakers" gatherings Saturday and Sunday at Daddy O's in Brant Beach as well as the closing event and awards ceremony at The Sea Shell in Beach Haven on Sunday.

"The festival is such a unique and wonderful event for LBI, and attendance has nearly doubled in just three years," Rooney said of the films, events and collection of talented writers, producers, cast and crew members, and directors who will converge on LBI to mingle with residents and area film buffs.

"The festival brings a cutting-edge event to the island and shows that we're a community which supports the arts," she said.



Stranger Things



Natural Selection

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2011 LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Call 609-240-1306, visit www.lighthousefilmfestival.com, or visit The Film Festival Press & Information Center at 309 Long Beach Blvd. in Ship Bottom to pick up programs, tickets, merchandise or have questions answered. Event tickets also can be purchased at the Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce at 265 W. Ninth St. in Ship Bottom, Things Adrift at 406 Long Beach Blvd. in Ship Bottom or the LBIF at 120 Long Beach Blvd. in Loveladies.

Pictured are scenes from a sample of movies being shown at the festival.