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March 10, 2016

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ARTS ORGANIZATION RAW: NATURAL BORN ARTISTS PRESENTS INAUGURAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL FEATURING LOCAL SOCIAL ARTISTS AT THE BOOTLEG THEATER IN ECHO PARK

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016, STARTING AT 12PM

Artists Scheduled to Appear Include: WHYTEBERG, Kayla Briët, Neondethal, and Galvanized Souls

Los Angeles (CA) -- Premiere international indie arts organization, **RAW:natural born artists**, debuts its first film festival this spring at the warehouse-style venue Bootleg Theater on Sunday, April 24, starting at noon. Titled **RAW Film Festival (RAWFF)**, the debut international film festival will host a competitive showcase of short films from mainly local Southern Californian filmmakers in three different categories: narrative, experimental/music video, and documentary. In addition, there will be a free international showcase featuring filmmakers beyond California. The festival will integrate a curated art exhibition along with music and dance performances by a host of indie artists which directly tie-in with the short films being screened. Prominent photographer **Ryan Schude** will be displaying his work. Artists scheduled to perform during the fest include avant-garde dance duo **WHYTEBERG** and musician and filmmaker **Kayla Briët**. Alternative rock band **Galvanized Souls** will be headlining a condensed set of concert performances at the after party with new wave electronic rock band **Neonderthal**.

RAWFF will present 40 short films from local filmmakers, many of which were also selected to screen at **Sundance, SXSW, TIFF**, as well as **Vice Shorts** and **Vimeo Staff Picks**. A handful of films will premiere at the event. In addition, RAWFF will feature a Virtual Reality Showcase with select 360° films presented on Samsung Gear VR Headsets, including work from **New Deal Studios, Lithic VR, and Perception4**. Described as "art house in Hollywood," the films presented are edgy, conceptual films with high aesthetics and production value. The films include actors such as **Martin Starr** (Freaks and Geeks), **John Ross Bowie** (Big Bang Theory), comedian **Steve Agee** and actress **Beth Dover** (Life Partners). The three local blocks of films presented will be followed by Q&A sessions with the filmmakers. The day will be followed by a brief award ceremony where a cash award is given to the top film in each program category.

Award panel judges include RAW CEO/founder **Heidi Luerra** , Hollywood Short Film Festival founder/director **Kimberly Browning**, Head of Business Development at Broad Green Pictures **Anam Syed**, Manager of AFI Conservatory **Chris Schwartz**, and No Budget Film Festival Head Programmer **Joshua Wilmott**.

Festival goers can also purchase passes to the RAW Film Festival after-party where guests will be able to connect with the filmmakers as well as other artists in attendance. Tickets to each programming block are \$15, except for the International block which is free with RSVP. After-party access is included with the purchase of any program ticket. Buy tickets and RSVP via rawfilmfestival.eventbrite.com

Festival Schedule:

12PM: “International Offerings” – International Shorts
2PM: “Hi-Fi Hivemind” – Documentary Shorts
4:30PM: “Uncanny Valley Girls” – Experimental Shorts + Music Videos
7PM: “Hollywood Hole” – Narrative Shorts
9PM: Award Ceremony
9:30: After-Party Begins

For more information please visit:

www.rawfilmfestival.com
facebook.com/rawfilmfestival
Twitter + Instagram: @RAWFilmFestival
Bootlegtheater.org

RAW: natural born artists is a creative community designed to provide independent artists with the tools, resources and exposure needed to inspire and cultivate creativity. The platforms developed by raw showcase indie talent in visual art, fashion design, film, music, performance art, hair and make-up artistry, and photography. RAW presents artists to their local community, as well as the world stage, through fun, unconventional methods. With a worldwide presence, RAW operates in 60 cities around the world including the United States, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Bootleg Theater is a year-round inclusive art space for original, boundary-defying live theater, music, and dance performances born from the diverse cultural and artistic landscape of Los Angeles. Bootleg supports and collaborates with the best of established and emerging music, theater, and dance artists to create daring multi-disciplinary live experiences that are striking, contemporary and non-traditional. Based in a former 1930s warehouse, this brick-walled performance space hosts theater, music, dance and film events in a medium-size theater, which is adjoined by a smaller stage and bar.

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