



OCT. 21-23, 2011
DAVIS PLANETARIUM
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE CONTACT THE MISSISSIPPI FILM INSTITUTE:

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**MISSISSIPPI FILM INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ACTOR DANNY GLOVER,
ROCKABILLY HALL-OF-FAMER AL FERRIER, FREEDOM RIDERS, AND *GREEN ACRES*' "EB"
FOR THE 2011 MISSISSIPPI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
AT THE RUSSELL C. DAVIS PLANETARIUM IN DOWNTOWN JACKSON, MISS.**

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI – The Mississippi International Film Festival (MIFF) announces award-winning actor/civil rights activist Danny Glover and Rockabilly Hall-of-Famer Al Ferrier in attendance. Mr. Glover stars in *Freedom Song*, Friday night's 7 P.M. film. Mr. Ferrier is a Rockabilly pioneer who once shared the stage with Elvis. This year's Festival will be a cultural union of two diverse elements: the Freedom Riders and the Rockabillies. Both were born in Mississippi and are celebrating 50th anniversaries. The MIFF will present dozens of selected films from many genres, all competing for awards. The Festival is produced by the Mississippi Film Institute, a non-profit arts organization in service since 1998 to inspire Mississippi's growing "creative class"—young people enhancing Mississippi's image. Jackson Teleport's satellite uplink will be available to media for studio live shots.

View the list of films, events and workshops at MSFilm.org.

Friday, October 21st kicks off at 9 A.M. with a competition film block of student- and Mississippi-made films and shorts, plus others from around the world. Join us for the Opening Gala from 5:30 to 7 P.M. After the Gala, films and speakers honoring the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom Riders will be presented. First up will be *Freedom Song*, starring Danny Glover. Best known for his role in *Lethal Weapon*, Mr. Glover is also an accomplished humanitarian and will speak live at Sunday morning's brunch (see below). After *Freedom Song*, the Festival will showcase *Mississippi Re-mixed*, a race-relations film adored by critics and directed by Mississippi native Myra Ottewell, who will be in attendance. Friday evening will also feature Hezekiah Watkins and Fred Clark, Freedom Riders who lived through the struggle for equality 50 years ago. The men will recount their experiences first-hand on the Planetarium stage. At 11:15 P.M., the Festival will shift into Halloween Spookfest Mode – Part 1, presented by Something Weird. We will present a documentary on the career of Herschell Gordon Lewis...17+only. Halloween costumes are encouraged for this Spookfest!

Saturday, October 22nd gets started at 10 A.M. Competition and feature films will air inside all day, as Rockabilly legend Al Ferrier jams with other Rockabilly performers on the main stage under the Lamar Street Planetarium. The street will be closed to traffic all day for a Hot Rod Car Show of 50's-era cars. Enjoy street vendors, live music, plus 5 acting and film-industry-related workshops in the Planetarium lobby. At 4 P.M., watch *Blood Feast* from Herschell Gordon Lewis (17+ only), then join us for the gala from 5:30-7 P.M. The evening will feature a performance by Mr. Ferrier. Then, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Rockabilly star and Mississippi-native Elvis Presley's film *Blue Hawaii*. Tom Lester ("Eb" from *Green Acres*) will introduce the film. After *Blue Hawaii*, the Festival will premiere *The One Warrior*; director Tom Stout will speak before this medieval fantasy adventure. Recently shot in Alabama, the film obtained distribution and is sold internationally. It stars Jason David Frank, Dominick Keating, James Russo, and is the feature-film acting debut of this Festival's director, Edward Saint Pé. Late Saturday night will deliver Halloween Spookfest – Part 2, with costume contests and more from the "Godfather of Gore": *2000 Maniacs* and *Color Me Blood Red*. Note: These films are for ages 17+ and were released *before* the movie ratings system. Viewers with heart conditions must sign waivers to get in.

Sunday, October 23rd features the Coup De Gras Awards ceremony / brunch, at 11 AM at the King Edward / Hilton Garden Inn. Expect remarks by Guest Danny Glover, as we award the best film in each category.



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ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Returning for a second year, the Mississippi International Film Festival delivers a unique opportunity for Mississippi and the Mid-South to experience cultural diversity through a showcase of independent short films and features from around the world. Hosted in Jackson, Mississippi, the Festival provides exposure to captivating contemporary films that the movie-loving public would otherwise have little or no access to. The Festival also produces the Coup De Gras Awards, which honors films and filmmakers. Tickets at the door are \$8 per day, or \$10 for both Friday and Saturday. Kids 12 and under get in FREE for all film blocks and the street festival. The Saturday night dinner party at F. Jones Corner is FREE, and the Sunday brunch buffet at the downtown Jackson Hilton Garden Inn is \$20.

Last year's inaugural festival welcomed filmmakers and actors from Austin, TX; Mobile, AL; New Orleans, LA; Birmingham, AL; and other cities. Films from Iran, Israel, Spain, India, Germany and England were shown. This year promises to be even bigger.

The Festival realizes that a culturally stable society means a healthy economy. The Festival strives to encourage cultural diversity and tolerance, generating awareness of culture through film. It aims to inspire young filmmakers by screening their films, providing educational workshops, and fostering an environment conducive for networking.

For more information, visit MSFilm.org.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The image of Jackson, and of Mississippi, is changing. Many people's negative impression of the Magnolia State is giving way to an appreciation of the State's positive qualities. The new "creative class" is establishing a new creative economy around the State. Young people ages 20 to 50 are the driving force behind this change. The Mississippi International Film Festival is a material draw for this creative class in Mississippi and surrounding regions.

ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI FILM INSTITUTE

The Mississippi Film Institute is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit arts organization that champions independent film and supports a community of artists who embody diversity and innovation. It was established as a charitable and educational entity to aid in the discovery and development of aspiring and independent film professionals. In addition to bringing Jackson an exciting yearly film festival of world-class value, the Institute screens weekly, first-run "Arthouse Cinema" American and foreign independent films to Jackson each week at the Russell C. Davis Planetarium. These first-run films are supplied both by a New York-based independent film distributor and the Institute's founder—meteorologist and entrepreneur Edward Saint Pé—who owns a library of nearly 500 public domain films. In addition, the Mississippi Film Institute is working to create an educational component to bring knowledge of the film industry to Mississippi's classrooms and beyond by partnering with industry professionals.



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