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THE NINTH ANNUAL BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN FILM FESTIVAL (BHFF™) INTRODUCES OFFICIAL JURY AWARDS TO BE AWARDED BY AN EXPERT PANEL OF JUDGES WHO HAVE HELPED SHAPE BOSNIAN-HERZEGOVINIAN ART AND CULTURE

The deadline for the submission of entries is March 15, 2012

NEW YORK, March 2012: Moving forwards, three prestigious awards will be given to the most outstanding films screened at the Ninth Annual Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival, which will be held May 3-5, 2012 at Tribeca Cinemas in New York City. These films will be selected by the official BHFF 2012 Jury, an expert panel of judges comprising award-winning filmmaker Steve Nemsick, as well as an accomplished Bosnian-American fiction writer, Aleksandar Hemon.

“As we near our tenth anniversary, we are extremely honored to collaborate with such an accomplished panel of judges who have helped shape Bosnian-Herzegovinian art,” said Amra Turalić, spokesperson for BHFF. “We hope this will help push Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival to a new level, provide new filmmakers with added exposure and further raise awareness of the Bosnian Herzegovinian cinematography, history and culture.”

BHFF 2012 jury will honor the most outstanding films with BHFF™ 2012 Jury Award for the Best Documentary Film, BHFF™ 2012 Jury Award for Best Short or Animated Film and BHFF™ 2012 Jury Award for the Best Feature Film.

Additionally, as of 2012, the BHFF™ 2012 Audience Award for Best Picture will be presented to a film in any category deemed outstanding by an audience vote.

Films eligible for the Jury Awards and Audience Award in 2012 are all those screened at the BHFF™ 2012 that were produced during 2012, 2011 or 2010. All winning films will be presented with “The Golden Apple” award.

The deadline for the submission of entries for the Ninth Annual BHFF is March 15, 2012. The BHFF committee will consider feature films, short films, documentary films and animated films by Bosnian-Herzegovinian filmmakers as well as films that have Bosnia and Herzegovina as their theme.

About the BHFF 2012 Jury

Steve Nemsick is an award-winning filmmaker with more than a decade of experience making documentaries and editing television shows. His "Pray For Me, The Jason Jesse Film," won numerous awards, including Best Emerging Filmmaker at X-Dance. In 2011, his "Much Ado In Mostar" won Best Documentary audience award at the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival. A wide variety of projects has led to Steve filming from the back of a chopper in Tokyo at 125 miles per hour, to a community that lives in a

Mexican garbage dump, to a white power BBQ in Australia. Nemsick is currently making a series of short films about quintessential New Yorkers.

Aleksandar Hemon is a Bosnian-American fiction writer who has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and a "Genius Grant" from the MacArthur Foundation. He is the editor of several Best European Fiction anthologies (Dalkey Archives) and the author of *The Question of Bruno*, *Nowhere Man*, *The Lazarus Project*, and *Love and Obstacles*. Hemon's collection of auto-biographical essays, *The Book of My Lives*, is forthcoming in the fall of 2012.

About the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival is an annual event, which features award-winning films by emerging Bosnian-Herzegovinian filmmakers or films that have Bosnia-Herzegovina as their theme. Since its founding in 2003, BHFF has gained a reputation as an important showcase. This unique cultural event organized by two New York area-based not-for-profit organizations, Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. and Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, provides a platform for the exposure of up-and-coming and internationally-renowned filmmakers, thus contributing to a greater understanding of this country, its diverse culture and complex history. To date, BHFF has screened more than 80 feature length, short, documentary and animated films viewed by several thousand people.

For more information, visit <http://www.bhffnyc.org>. Those interested in supporting the festival through sponsorship opportunities should contact Almir Lucević (almir@bhffnyc.org or 917-250-1200) and Selma Avdičević (selma@bhffnyc.org or 917-975-9034).

The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving and raising awareness of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture in the Tri-State area and beyond. The Voice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Inc. broadcasts a weekly radio program in Bosnian language and organizes events for the Bosnian-Herzegovinian community. For more information, visit <http://www.voiceofbh.org/>.

The Academy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a not-for-profit cultural and advocacy organization, which serves as a platform for various cultural, arts, and professional exchange programs led by its members that are intended to benefit the Bosnians and Herzegovinians in New York City and United States. For more information, visit <http://www.academybh.org/>.

Tribeca Cinemas is the downtown's home for film premieres, gala receptions, intimate gatherings, live events and more. Tribeca Cinemas is the home of the Tribeca Film Festival and a year-round venue available for a multitude of private events. For more information, visit <http://www.tribecacinemas.com/>.

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