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STUDENT SHOWCASE OF FILMS AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENT FILMMAKERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla. (Apr. 22, 2010) — The Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission has named two exceptional student filmmakers as the recipients of this year's scholarships offered by the Palm Beach International Film Festival's Student Showcase of Films (SSOF). **Paul Halluch** will receive a \$5,000 Burt Reynolds Scholarship – which the legendary actor will personally present at the SSOF awards ceremony on Friday, Apr. 23 – and **Alexander Mitchell** will receive the \$500 Sara Fuller Student Scholarship. The 2010 recipients were selected from a group of Palm Beach County high school seniors who were judged on examples of their work in media production, film and television industry goals, extracurricular activities and academics.

This year's Burt Reynolds Scholarship winner, Paul Halluch, is a G-Star School of the Arts student who has already learned directly from the scholarship's namesake. He donates his time to the Burt Reynolds Film Institute, where he would help set up the equipment for and film scenes during Reynolds' master acting class. Halluch has worked on several independent projects, including two professional music videos and seven short-film and documentary projects, in addition to serving as director of photography for the feature film, *Turkles*, by South Florida's Frank Eberling. Halluch also recently completed a Kodak cinematography workshop where he participated in the development and production of two professional commercials for the University of New Orleans. Halluch's reason for applying for the scholarship is to create awareness of the non-profit organization, Not Fashionable, and its cause of preventing child hunger and diseases through film documentaries. He plans to continue his education locally at Palm Beach State College, and other future goals include directing and producing major documentary films, and eventually winning an Academy Award for Best Picture.

Suncoast Community High School student Alexander Mitchell stood out among the candidates to earn the 2010 Sara Fuller Student Scholarship, and he is a finalist for this year's SSOF Audience Award for his film, *Paint*. Mitchell also placed first in the high school

feature/short category at SSOF in 2009 for his film, *Flowers*, which he wrote, directed, and composed and performed the musical score. Mitchell has worked on a number of professional projects, including a corporate training film for local company Lice Solutions, which is being mass-produced and distributed to schools nationwide. In addition, Mitchell serves as president of Suncoast's cinematography club where he teaches film techniques to more than 30 peers. Outside of film, Mitchell donates his time to the Busch Wildlife Animal Sanctuary and has served more than 120 hours on mission trips to help rebuild homes for those in need. He was accepted into Florida State University's College of Motion Picture Arts where he plans to continue filmmaking.

The scholarship recipients and winners of the five film categories will be honored with their scholarships in front of more than 800 attendees at the live SSOF awards ceremony on Friday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Palm Beach Gardens Community High School Theatre. Past SSOF award presenters and guests include such notables as Steven Bauer, Amanda Bynes, Vincent Cecere, Clint Howard, Jonathan Krane, Louis Lombardi, Vincent Pastore, Burt Reynolds, Al Sapienza, Tico Torres and Nick Zano.

For more information about the Student Showcase of Films, please visit www.pbfilm.com or the [Facebook group page](#).

About the Palm Beach International Film Festival

The PBIFF is a not for profit 501 (c) 3 founded in 1996 with the vision of offering an exciting cultural venue for the community and to be a tremendous fundraiser for educational film and television programs. The festival hosts more than 20,000 filmgoers annually, has been recognized as one of the Top 25 Independent Film Festivals in the World and has screened more than 150 World Premieres.

The PBIFF has welcomed a bevy of top celebrities and filmmakers including: Academy Award® Winners Adrien Brody, Anthony Hopkins, Tommy Lee Jones, Faye Dunaway, Dennis Hopper, Louise Fletcher and Michael Caine; Academy Award® Nominees Salma Hayek, Edward Norton, Robert Evans, Sylvester Stallone, Woody Harrelson and Burt Reynolds. Along with countless other legends, stars and filmmakers that have created movie magic for the past 80 years, including: Roger Moore, Faye Wray, Esther Williams, Anouk Aimee, Samuel L. Jackson, Cyd Charisse, Richard Zanuck, William Friedkin, Brett Ratner, Jacqueline Bisset, Michael Clarke Duncan and Rod Steiger.

To date, the PBIFF has donated over one million dollars of proceeds film and television programs. For more information about the PBIFF visit pbiffilmfest.org.

This program is funded by the PBIFF, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the Palm Beach County Economic Development Office and the Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission.

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