



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, October 16, 2009

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**2009 HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS  
DOCUMENTARIES IN ITS REEL LIFE SHOWCASE  
*Sponsored by KBFD, Eight Inc. and New Hope Oahu***

HONOLULU, HI (October 16, 2009) – The 29th annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is pleased to feature films that focus on real life stories through the vehicle of motion pictures in its REEL LIFE showcase. These documentaries bring an insight of our world through the narrative accounts of those who have persevered through hardships, conquered national issues and brought forth success in our present time. Sponsored by KBFD, Eight Inc. and New Hope O`ahu, these special film selections will feature pieces of history under the direction of individuals such as Emiko Omori, Hilla Medalia and Sung Hyung Cho.

This year, HIFF features six Hawaii premieres and two International premieres that offer an insight to the real world through the lives of average everyday people. 9500 LIBERTY is a powerful documentary that looks at our nation's issue of immigration policy through the eyes of Prince William County, Virginia. AFTER THE STORM is a documentary by TO DIE IN JERUSALEM director Hilla Medalia which follows the unseen lives of talented young actors during the production of the musical ONCE ON THIS ISLAND both on and off the scene.

The story of Ed Hardy is depicted in Emiko Omori's ED HARDY: TATTOO THE WORLD as an individual rising to the top of the celebrity world through means of his personal art. In the North American premiere of HOME FROM HOME, an emotional story of love in Germany and Korea through interracial union, is depicted through the lives of three women and their husbands during the 1970s. Newly highlighted on O`ahu is the documentary MORE THAN A GAME featuring the story of LeBron James and four of his high school friends making up a group known as the "Fab

The logo for the Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) is displayed in white text on a black rectangular background. The letters 'HIFF' are large and bold, with the words 'HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL' stacked to their right in a smaller, all-caps font.

# HIFF HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Five.” A true story of friendship, dedication and passion of basketball, MORE THAN A GAME brings us through the lives of these talented young basketball players over a period of seven years. OLD PARTNER is a pleasant tale between man and nature, taking us through the life and day in South Korea of a local farmer, his wife and their beloved ox.

Another REEL LIFE feature is VISUAL ACOUSTICS, from director Erik Bricker and narrated by Dustin Hoffman. It celebrates the life and career of Julius Shulman, the man known as the world’s greatest architectural photographer. HIFF’s final REEL LIFE film, WHATEVER IT TAKES, chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the very first year of the Bronx Center for Science & Mathematics, an innovative public high school set in NYC’s South Bronx.

Over 170 films from 36 different countries will be featured at this year’s festival. HIFF’s 2009 program is being held at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters from October 15–25. Tickets are on sale now. General admission tickets are available for \$10 or \$9 for students, seniors, children and military. Tickets may be purchased in person at HIFF’s box office at 650 Iwilei Road #101 across from Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 Theaters or by phone at (808) 548-5905. The film guide is available now online at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org). For more information please visit us at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

## **FILM SYNOPSES: (All screening times subject to change)**

**(MY HIFF: Indicates Other Films Viewers Might Like)**

### **9500 LIBERTY**

REEL LIFE  
HAWAII PREMIERE

9500 LIBERTY documents an explosive battle over immigration policy in Prince William County, Virginia. The county’s government folds under pressure and passes a resolution allowing police to stop and demand US identification from anyone they have "probable cause" to suspect is an



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undocumented immigrant. The issue of illegal immigration has become one of the most divisive topics over the past decade and this movie exposes the dangers of just pushing illegal immigrants out.

**United States 2009 | 73M**

**Director:** Annabel Park, Eric Byler

**Featuring:** Greg Letiecq, Corey A. Stewart, Col. Charlie T. Deane, Gaudencio Fernandez, Alanna Almeda

20-Oct 6:30 PM

23-Oct 1:15 PM

**MY HIFF:** WHATEVER IT TAKES / PETITION

**AFTER THE STORM**

REEL LIFE

HAWAII PREMIERE

Hilla Medalia's inspiring documentary, ostensibly about three New York theater vets who come to New Orleans to mount a benefit production of the Broadway musical "Once on this Island," goes right to the eye of the storm. The production, which hauntingly mirrors the real-life events of Hurricane Katrina, is fraught with the raw emotions of children struggling to live in a broken-down city.

**United States 2009 | 89M**

**Director:** Hilla Medalia

**Featuring:** Gerry McIntyre, James Lecesne, Randy Redd, Rayan Arnold, Annie Britton

22-Oct 6:15 PM Dole

23-Oct 4:00 PM Dole

**MY HIFF:** 9500 LIBERTY / WHATEVER IT TAKES

**ED HARDY: TATTOO THE WORLD**

REEL LIFE

WORLD PREMIERE

Ed Hardy. You've seen his name on clothing worn by Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, and Mick Jagger, on wine and energy drinks and dozens of other commercial products. Directed by Emiko Omori, whose documentaries have received critical acclaim (RABBIT IN THE MOON Sundance 1999), ED HARDY: TATTOO THE WORLD chronicles the journey of Hardy's phenomenal rise to cult icon and the evolution of his personal art.



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**Director:** Emiko Omori

17-Oct 7:15 PM Dole

24-Oct 10:30 AM Dole

**MY HIFF:** OBJECTIFIED / MILTON GLASER

**HOME FROM HOME**  
**ENDSTATION DER SEHNSUCHE**

REEL LIFE

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Three women, each yearning to go home, return to a Korea that is no longer theirs after 30 years of absence. Back in the 1970's they left everything behind, even their children, to go and work in Germany as "Gastarbeiter." They assimilated quickly in the new country, despite missing the old one. Now they've almost made their dreams come true and have brought their German husbands to Dogil Maeul, the "German Village" set up just for people like themselves.

**Germany, South Korea 2009 | German w/ English subtitles | 99M**

**Director:** Sung Hyung Cho

**Featuring:** Armin Theis

16-Oct 3:00 PM Dole

22-Oct 11:45 AM Dole

**MY HIFF:** OLD PARTNER / QUICK, QUICK, SLOW

**MORE THAN A GAME**

REEL LIFE

OAHU PREMIERE

Five talented young basketball players from Akron, Ohio star in this remarkable true-life coming of age story about uncommon friendship in the face of all too common adversities. Coached by a player's charismatic but inexperienced father, and led by future NBA superstar LeBron James, the "Fab Five"'s improbable seven-year journey leads them from a decrepit inner-city gym to the doorstep of a national high school championship.

**United States 2008 | 105M**

**Director:** Kristopher Belman

**Featuring:** LeBron James, Dru Joyce, Romeo Travis, Sian Cotton

19-Oct 6:30 PM Dole



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**MY HIFF: PRECIOUS / AFTER THE STORM**

**OLD PARTNER  
WYO-NANG SO-RI**

REEL LIFE  
HAWAII PREMIERE

In a remote, verdant valley in South Korea, old Mr. and Mrs. Lee live on a farm with their rickety ox. For 40 years, the animal has served them faithfully, hauling untold firewood loads and dragging the plow through fertile fields. In return, Mr. Lee collects special fodder by hand and refuses to spray insecticides for fear of poisoning his beloved beast. A charming, heartbreaking, existential buddy tale, OLD PARTNER conveys the almost mystical inextricability of humans and nature. This screening is sponsored by KBFD.

**South Korea 2008 | Korean w/ English subtitles | 77M**

**Director:** Chung-ryoul Lee  
**Featuring:** Choi Won-kyun, Lee Sam-soon  
17-Oct 11:00 AM Dole  
19-Oct 1:30 PM Dole  
**MY HIFF; HOME FROM HOME / MOTHER**

**VISUAL ACOUSTICS**

REEL LIFE  
HAWAII PREMIERE

VISUAL ACOUSTICS celebrates the life and career of Julius Shulman, the world's greatest architectural photographer, whose images brought modern architecture to the American mainstream. His images epitomized the singular beauty of Southern California's modernist movement and brought its iconic structures to the attention of the general public. This unique film is both a testament to the evolution of modern architecture and a joyful portrait of the magnetic whip-smart gentleman who chronicled it with his unforgettable images. This screening is sponsored by Eight Inc.

**United States 2008 | 83M**

**Director:** Eric Bricker  
**Featuring:** Frances Anderton, Kelly Lynch, Dante Spinotti  
16-Oct 1:00 PM Dole  
24-Oct 5:30 PM Dole



# HIFF HAWAII INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**MY HIFF: TATTOO THE WORLD / ART AND COPY**

## **WHATEVER IT TAKES**

REEL LIFE  
HAWAII PREMIERE

In order to combat rising problems in public schools, New York City decided to create hundreds of small schools in the poorest areas of the city, mainly the South Bronx. The Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics was one of these new schools aimed to make a difference in the neighborhood. **WHATEVER IT TAKES** covers the first year of this school's existence, concentrating on Principal Tom, Science teacher Ms. Balogh and student Sharifea (aka Ya-Ya). This screening is sponsored by New Hope Oahu.

**United States 2009 | 92M**

**Director:** Christopher Wong

18-Oct 6:00 PM Dole

22-Oct 2:30 PM Dole

**MY HIFF: AFTER THE STORM / BLAST!**

## **Festival Information**

Established in 1981, the Hawaii International Film Festival is dedicated to the advancement of understanding and cultural exchange among the peoples of Asia, the Pacific and North America through the medium of film. HIFF is the premier international film event in the Pacific and has won the praise of governments, filmmakers, scholars, educators, programmers and film industry leaders throughout the world. For the discovery and exhibition of Asian and Pacific features, documentaries and short films in the nation, it is a primary source. The festival has premiered such movies as **ONCE WERE WARRIORS**, **THE PIANO**, **SHINE**, **SHALL WE DANCE**, **Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN** and **CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**. Plus, **DEPARTURES**, a Japanese film, had its U.S. premiere at HIFF in 2008, won the HIFF Audience Award and then went on to win the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

HIFF's major sponsors include: Regal Entertainment Group, Starwood Hotels & Resorts Hawaii, Halekulani, Hawaii Tourism Authority and The VILCEK Foundation.

The 2009 Hawaii International Film Festival is being held October 15-25. Images of the films can be downloaded at



<http://picasaweb.google.com/hiff2009images/2009FallFilmImages?authkey=Gv1sRgCOjSudrp5ob2iwE&feat=directlink>. For more information please visit our website at [www.hiff.org](http://www.hiff.org).

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