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**Gasparilla International Film Festival 2013 Award Winners,  
Largest Festival Attendee Numbers Plus A-List Actors & Films**

TAMPA, Fla. – March 26, 2013 – The Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) concluded the 2013 season with more than 13,000+ attendees to the Festival this year.

“GIFF 2013 had a record-breaking number of attendees, a dynamic film line-up, talented filmmakers and industry professionals, plus we threw in a visit from an exceptional actor which was a big surprise for attendees,” says Joseph (Joe) Restaino, board president of GIFF and programming director. “We couldn’t have asked for a more wonderful way to celebrate film in our region and I am exceptionally proud of all the 2013 GIFF honorees and award winners!”

The “surprise” referred to by Restaino included actor, **Colin Farrell** who attended in support of Ante Novakovic, director of the film, *The Fix*. Also in attendance at the Festival were: **Thomas Jane** (*The Punisher*, *Hung*) who was GIFF’s 2013 Career Achievement Award winner; **Gina Rodriguez** (*Filly Brown*); **Blake Berris** (*Meth Head*, *Days of Our Lives*) who was also GIFF’s 2013 Rising Star Award recipient; **Ryan O’Nan** (*The Iceman*, *Brooklyn Brothers Beat the Best*); **Andre Holland** (*1600 Penn*, *42*), **Michael Angarano** (*Empire State*, *Haywire*); producer **Randall Emmett** (*Empire State*, *End of Watch*) who was GIFF’s Producer’s Filmmaking Award recipient; and director **Dito Montiel** (*Empire State*, *The Son of No One*).

Closing night of the Festival, Sunday, March 24, GIFF presented several awards to various filmmakers and talents. The 2013 GIFF award winners were as follows:

**GIFF 2013 Audience Award Winners**

- Best Florida Production: Karl Wilson, *Breaking Up with Rosie*
- College Showcase: William J. Stribling, *Beyond Belief*
- Documentary: Patrick Burke, *Poster Boy's or: The Art of Mobile Recording*
- Narrative Feature: Lawrence (Larry) Feeney, *Pharmboy*
- Narrative Short: Ante Novakovic, *The Fix*
- Young Filmmaker: John Kirk, *Not to Scale*
- World Showcase: Ron Morales, *Graceland*

## **GIFF 2013 Grand Jury Award Winners**

- Documentary: Brett Whitcomb, *GLOW: The Story of the Glorious Ladies of Wrestling*
- Narrative Feature: Youssef Delara & Michael Olmos, *Filly Brown*
- Narrative Short: Andrew Young, *Unburden*
- Special Jury Award for Acting: Gina Rodriguez, *Filly Brown*
- Special Jury Award for Filmmaking: Elias Mael, *Against the Grain*
- Young Filmmaker: Byron Leon, *Dangerous Daze*
- Screenwriting: Sayre & Zahner, *Darby Petty and The Lost Treasure of the Iverni*

“I’ve been a part of the Festival since its inception 7 years ago and it has been amazing to watch it grow and attract the caliber of talent and films,” says Monica Varner, GIFF executive director. “We truly are the filmmakers’ festival, committed to supporting the artists in our region and celebrating the best of film. I’m thankful to everyone who has contributed to make this event a success over the years!”

The festival was extended to six full days this year, and made for a successful seven year event. The GIFF volunteer board and events team look forward to the 2014 season and the ever-growing film community in Tampa Bay.

For more information about the Gasparilla International Film Festival or to see 2013 event highlights, please visit: [GasparillaFilmFestival.com](http://GasparillaFilmFestival.com).

### **ABOUT THE GASPARILLA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

First launched in the summer of 2006, the Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) has grown into an entertaining and educational year-round entity in Tampa Bay. Well-known for its annual film festival, GIFF is operated by the 501(c)(3) non-profit Tampa Film Institute and continually upholds its mission to provide year-long support for film screening, production, and education throughout Tampa Bay and the region. For more information on GIFF including sponsor and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.gasparillafilmfestival.com](http://www.gasparillafilmfestival.com).

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