



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE CONTACT:

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

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI –The Mississippi International Film Festival announces award-winning actor/civil rights activist Danny Glover and Rockabilly Hall-of-Famer Al Ferrier attending the Festival. Mr. Glover is the star of the Festival's opening-night film, *Freedom Song*. Mr. Ferrier is a Rockabilly pioneer who once shared the stage with Elvis. This year's Festival delivers a cultural union of two diverse elements—the Freedom Riders and the Rockabillies. Both were born in Mississippi and both are celebrating a 50th anniversary. The Mississippi International Film Festival will screen dozens of selected films spanning a wide range of tastes. The Festival is produced by the Mississippi Film Institute, a non-profit arts organization in service to inspire Mississippi's growing "creative class"—young people enhancing the image of Mississippi. The Jackson Teleport satellite uplink will be available to all media interested in studio live shots.

Watch the Festival's promotional video and view the list of films at MSFilm.org, under "Home".

Friday, October 21st kicks off late morning with films from around the world. Beginning late afternoon, films and speakers that honor the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom Riders will be shown. This includes the film *Freedom Song*, starring Danny Glover. Best known for his role in the *Lethal Weapon* movies, Mr. Glover is also an accomplished humanitarian and will speak live from the Planetarium before his film begins. After *Freedom Song*, the Festival will sprinkle in local flavor with *Mississippi Re-mixed*, a critically-acclaimed film 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. Late Friday night, the Festival will shift into Halloween Spookfest mode. Feature films and shorts will compete, and workshops and speakers are planned. Halloween costumes are encouraged!

Saturday, October 22nd gets started late morning, as Rockabilly legend Al Ferrier jams with other Rockabilly performers on the main stage under the Planetarium on Lamar Street. The street will be closed to traffic all day for a street-long Hot Rod Car Show of 50's-era cars, plus food vendors and live music. Acting workshops will be held in the Planetarium lobby. The evening will feature a performance by Mr. Ferrier, then a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Rockabilly powerhouse and Mississippi-native Elvis Presley's film *Blue Hawaii*. After *Blue Hawaii*, the Festival will air the world premiere of *The One Warrior*, with Director Tom Stout speaking before the film. Late Saturday night will include more spooky films, shorts, and costumes.

Sunday, October 23rd features the Coup De Gras Awards ceremony and brunch, which will take place at 11 AM at the King Edward / Hilton Garden Inn, Downtown. The ceremony caps off the festival 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.