

SHORTCUTS | A look at film

With Honor: GI Film Festival

By Kristi Reid

The Third Annual **GI Film Festival** (GIFF) occurring **May 13 - 17** in Washington, is the brainchild of the husband and wife team Brandon and Major Laura Millett. The purpose of the GIFF is three-fold: to honor the successes and the sacrifices of the American GI through film, to foster a positive image of GIs, and to encourage support of soldiers, veterans and their families from the entertainment community.

The GIFF is the first film festival of its kind, and has enjoyed huge success in its short three-year run. In the festival's first year in 2007, a film premiered at the festival, "Operation Homecoming," earned an Academy Award nomination. In 2008, one of the festival's documentaries, "Brothers At War," was picked up for theatrical distribution. This year two major film studios asked to screen movies at the festival. HBO will screen a documentary starring Kevin Bacon titled "Taking Chance," and MGM will conduct a private screening of the Tom Cruise film "Valkyrie." On Saturday, May 16, there will be a red carpet world premiere of the Citizens United production "Perfect Valor," which is narrated by former Senator and presidential candidate Fred Thompson and produced by David Bossie.

The festival has seen an increase from 85 film submissions in its first year to more than 200 submissions this year.

Here are a few of the films that will be screened this year:

"Triangle of Death": This film will have its world premiere at the GIFF and depicts the story of Marines who spent a year in Iraq's deadliest zone, called the "triangle of death."

"Injury Slight...Please Advise": This film chronicles the story of Captain Charles Sullivan, a fighter pilot who survived the jungles of New Guinea on foot for 30 days after crash landing his plane during WWII.

"The Divided": This film tells the unique story of Army officer Cott St. Clair, who returns home from the war to find that his sister Katherine is engaged to anti-war activist and leftist radio star Aaron Radek.

"GI Film Festival premieres run the gamut from shock and awe combat documentaries to patriotic films that pull at the heart strings, but they all share one thing in common: American GI's are the heroes," said Brandon Millett.

The 2009 festival will kick off on May 13, with a Congressional reception honoring military veterans in Congress from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Russell Senate Caucus Room. Tickets range from \$5 to \$10 for specific screenings and \$200 for a full festival pass.

GI Film Festival: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1530 P Street, NW, D.C.;
800-928-6307
www.gifilmfestival.com



As featured in the
May 2009 Issue

OnTap