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**Spotlight on the 2010 Gasparilla International Film Festival**

*Festival bringing films, renowned talent and entertainment to Tampa Bay*

**TAMPA, Fla.** – Bringing the film industry's best and brightest to Tampa Bay, the fourth annual Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF), presented by Digital Domain Holdings, will be held March 18 through March 21. The competitive film festival shows an average of 100 films each spring in Downtown and South Tampa. Continuing to attract industry attention, last year's festival brought more than 10,000 local residents, national visitors and film enthusiasts to Tampa Bay.

“The growth of this festival over the past few years has been astronomical and, with this year's incredible selection of films, this year is going to be better than ever,” said Chad Moore, president of the 2010 Gasparilla International Film Festival. “We are proud to celebrate film in multiple bay area locations and especially honored to show several films that have chosen this year's festival to make their world premier.”

In addition to the exceptional assortment of films and lavish parties, GIFF recognizes individuals that have made tremendous lifetime accomplishments and those who have the potential to achieve greatness in the film industry. This year, Raymond J. Barry will be receiving the Career Achievement Award for his success in television and film. Also, a local actress who continues to impress, Arielle Kebbel, will be receiving the Rising Star Award.

“I'm a firm believer in the cultural arts, not just from a quality of life perspective, but because it helps attract and keep a strong, educated, involved workforce and catalyzes important economic development,” said Ken Hagan, Chair of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. “Over the last few years, the Gasparilla International Film Festival has brought in national films, showcased extraordinary local talent and carved out an important niche in the cultural arts scene translates into good things for the entire community.”

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GIFF is focused on increasing opportunities for film makers and film fans alike. This year's film categories include North American Narratives, Florida Film, Feature Documentaries, Latin Panorama, Foreign Features, Foreign Shorts, Young Filmmaker/Student Shorts, Green Initiatives/Alternative Energy, and a Cuban Sidebar, celebrating Tampa's Cuban heritage. Film details and ticket information can be found at [www.gasparillafilmfestival.com](http://www.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).

### **About Digital Domain Holdings**

Digital Domain Holdings is a digital production company focused on feature films, video games, visual effects, and military simulation. It is also the parent company of Digital Domain, a state of the art animation and visual effects company with a 15-year history, eight Academy Awards©, and has contributed to films that have generated over \$12 billion in the world-wide box office.

Digital Domain Holdings is constructing a 150,000 square-foot digital production studio in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The studio, which will create more than 500 jobs, will be focused on the creation of original content and digital imagery for animated feature films, visual effects-driven line action films, video games, and visual effects for military simulations.

### **About Digital Domain**

During its 15-year history, Digital Domain has been recognized with eight Academy Awards and multiple British Academy (BAFTA) Awards, Visual Effects Society Awards, AICP Awards and even a 'Grammy'. The company is continually developing ground-breaking technologies. Digital Domain is being recognized for its pioneering work in photo-real digital humans and productions that bring the worlds of movies, games, advertising and the web closer together.

Among its more than 75 film credits are *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, *Star Trek*, *Transformers 2: Revenge Of The Fallen*, *G.I. Joe: The Rise Of Cobra*, 2012, *The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button*, *Pirates Of The Caribbean : At Worlds End*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *Apollo 13* & *Titanic*. [www.digitaldomain.com](http://www.digitaldomain.com)

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