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**WIFF ANNOUNCES OPENING AND CLOSING FILMS
NATALIE BURN, DARRYL HANNAH & NICOLE KIDMAN STAR**

Miami Beach, FL – The Women's International Film & Arts Festival today announced the opening and closing films, the most anticipated part of this year's 10th Anniversary of The Women's International Festival & Arts Festival.

The festival will open as the official kickoff to Miami Film Month on Tuesday June 2, 2015 with the Florida red carpet premiere of the film *Awaken*, Directed by Mark Atkins and featuring Natalie Burn, who produced, co-wrote, and casted the film. "Talk about an action hero!," said Yvonne McCormack-Lyons, Festival Founder, "Awaken shows women can be bold, beautiful and strong all at once."

Awaken is an action thriller that tells the story of a young woman (Natalie Burn) who embarks on a search for her missing sister and as she gets close to the culprits, she is kidnapped and wakes up on an island with a random group of people who are being hunted down in a plot to harvest their organs. The film also stars the exciting performances of Darryl Hannah, Vinnie Jones, David Keith, Edward Furlong, Jason London, Michael Paré, Christa Campbell, and the multi-faceted Robert Davi.

"We always close the festival with a strong entry that will carry the momentum until the next festival, and this year we are thrilled to bring the event to a fitting finale on Sunday, June 7, 2015 with the part-thriller, part-psychological drama *Strangerland*." The film stars Nicole Kidman in a tour de force performance as Catherine Parker, the mother of two teenage children who mysteriously vanish right before a dust storm after the family arrives in a remote desert town. The movie also stars Joseph Fiennes as Matthew Parker and Hugo Weaving as the detective David Rae. The film is directed by Kim Farrant, in her first major production.

The Women's International Film & Arts Festival and Conference is the leading annual international cultural event addressing the issues of women in the film industry. The annual event, the Reel Girls: Real Women™ project for girls and year-long programs feature films, workshops, visual and performing arts, produced by or about women.

News Release

The festival and conference will be held at the Deauville Beach Resort, 6701 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33141. More than 75 films by women around the world will be featured.

The Women's International Film & Arts Festival is a non-profit organization with support from private individuals, and organizations such as 777 Urban Media Group, Midtown Studios, Pur Attitude, Y WPBT TV (PBS), and local and State government agencies such as Miami Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Cultural Affairs Council, The Miami Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, City of Miami Beach, Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, Yellow Brick Road & Co., The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and The Florida Office of Film & Entertainment.

For more information, please contact Samantha Salgado, 561.201.2234

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