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MIDDLEBURG FILM FESTIVAL TO HONOR COLLEEN ATWOOD WITH COSTUME DESIGNER AWARD AND MARCO BELTRAMI WITH FILM COMPOSER AWARD

Celebrations will include in-depth conversations and career retrospectives for the Oscar-winning costume designer and Oscar-nominated composer

Middleburg, VA, September 2, 2014 – The Middleburg Film Festival announced today Colleen Atwood and Marco Beltrami as this year’s Distinguished Costume Designer and Distinguished Film Composer, respectively. The Distinguished Costume Designer Award will be presented to Atwood on Friday, October 31. The event will feature an in-depth conversation with Atwood with a retrospective of her most memorable costumes, followed by a Masquerade Ball in her honor. Beltrami will receive the Distinguished Film Composer Award on Saturday, November 1. The Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra will perform world premieres of concert suites from Marco Beltrami’s scores including *THE GIVER*, *THE HOMESMAN* and *WORLD WAR Z*. In addition, in honor of Halloween, his score for *SCREAM* will be performed. The Middleburg Film Festival, now in its second year, will run from Thursday, October 30 to Sunday, November 2 in Virginia’s historic wine country, located one hour from our nation’s capital and attracting filmmakers and filmgoers from all over the world.

“The Middleburg Film Festival is committed to recognizing creative artists who make movies memorable,” said Executive Director Susan Koch. “Colleen Atwood is a long-time collaborator with director Tim Burton on his dark and quirky films such as *SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET* and *SLEEPY HOLLOW*. Marco Beltrami is known for his horror and thriller scores, including the *SCREAM* movies. I can’t think of a better way to celebrate the Halloween weekend than with these two fantastic artists.”

From Johnny Depp’s black leather body suit in *EDWARD SCISSORHANDS* to Roxy and Velma’s sequined flapper dresses in *CHICAGO*, Atwood has designed some of the most iconic costumes during her thirty-year career. Atwood has been involved in developing or has been the lead designer for producing costumes on over 50 films to date. She is best known for her collaborations with director Tim Burton with whom she has worked on ten films and counting. Atwood has won three Academy Awards for Best Costume Design for her work on *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA* and *CHICAGO*. This year’s films include *BIG EYES* and *INTO THE WOODS*.

Marco Beltrami composed scores for five films coming out in 2014 alone: *SNOWPIERCER*, *THE GIVER*, *THE HOMESMAN*, *THE DROP* and *NOVEMBER MAN*. Filmmakers have come to know Beltrami for his unconventional approach to film music, particularly his humanistic touch for horror and science fiction features. His pursuit of music composition then lead him to Venice for a period of time to study with the Italian master, Luigi Nono, and then finally to Los Angeles to undertake a fellowship with Academy Award-winning composer, Jerry Goldsmith.

Shortly after arriving in Los Angeles, Marco Beltrami landed Wes Craven's SCREAM, embarking on what would become the widely successful terror franchise. In addition to Craven, Beltrami has collaborated with leading directors including Guillermo del Toro (HELLBOY, MIMIC), Kimberly Peirce (CARRIE), James Mangold (3:10 TO YUMA, WOLVERINE) and Katherine Bigelow (THE HURT LOCKER). He received two Oscar nominations for Best Original Score for THE HURT LOCKER and 3:10 TO YUMA. He is currently scoring TRUE STORY.

About Middleburg Film Festival

The Middleburg Film Festival, founded in 2013 by entrepreneur Sheila C. Johnson, offers four days of films in a spectacular setting. A carefully curated selection of narrative and documentary films will screen in an intimate theatre environment, followed by fascinating Q and A's with world-renowned filmmakers and actors. The films include Oscar contenders, festival favorites, foreign films, regional premieres, and both narratives and documentaries.

Festival attendees will also be able to experience the natural beauty, food, wine, and warm hospitality of Middleburg. More information is available at <http://www.middleburgfilm.org/>.

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