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SCOTCH VERDICT WRITTEN BY SUZANNE STROH NAMED BEST
UNPRODUCED SCREENPLAY BASED ON A HISTORICAL DRAMA AT THE
2013 MADRID INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SCOTCH VERDICT Tops the Shortlist for International Awards
Honoring Best in Film Screenwriting

MIDDLEBURG, VA – July 22, 2013 — Suzanne Stroh announced today that her screenplay has been named the Best Unproduced Screenplay Based on a Historical Drama at the third annual 2013 **Madrid International Film Festival**.

Attracting award-winning entries by established directors, producers and actors, MIFF is solidifying its reputation for discovering and recognizing the brightest new talent and original voices in film storytelling from around the world. The festival is regarded among the leading international awards honoring excellence in screenwriting.

In a ghostly period drama where THE ILLUSIONIST meets Shyamalan with a CRYING GAME twist, SCOTCH VERDICT tells the story of a young Scottish high court justice with a deadly secret to protect, pitted against the Indian teenage rebel with the power to destroy him and every other woman in his courtroom.

“Of the more than 1,000 unique screenplay entries we received this year, SCOTCH VERDICT has earned special distinction among the very best of the best,” said **Carl Tooney, Executive Director of Madrid International Film Festival**. “The jury thought it was an outstanding script, and this award is a testament to the talent, story-telling ability, and artistic vision of Suzanne Stroh.”

“It’s always exciting when a story about four gorgeous women fighting for their lives against an equally sexy teenage rebel strikes a chord with the jury,” said Stroh.

“My first feature was the African comedy, OKA!, written with filmmaker Lavinia Currier (2011: Dada Films). This is another story of high passions and clashing cultures. I’m looking forward to my second feature being an edgy period drama.”

The suspense-soaked trial story, set in Bombay and Edinburgh, reinterprets two hits of stage and screen: Lillian Hellman’s 1934 Broadway hit, “The Little Foxes,” and THE CHILDREN’S HOUR, which won Shirley MacLaine the Academy Award for Best Actress 50 years ago in 1963. Fittingly, the lead role in SCOTCH VERDICT is also Oscar material.

Hollywood veteran production designer **Robert de Vico** designed the visual treatment, which can be found alongside several other greenlighted projects at http://robertdevico.com/jobsites/jobsites/Feature_Treatments.html .

Each year producers and development execs travel to the Madrid International Film Festival to meet screenwriters and request their winning screenplays. Coverage of the awards has appeared in newspapers all over the world. A full list of the award winners at Madrid can be found at <http://www.madridinternationalfilmfestival.com/2013-winners/>

About Suzanne Stroh

Suzanne Stroh is the screenwriter of the dual-language feature film OKA! directed by Lavinia Currier, starring Kris Marshall and Isaac de Bankolé (Roland Films and James Bruce Productions; 2011: Dada Films). She is the producer of two documentary films with Amy Gerber, MY GRANDFATHER WAS A NAZI SCIENTIST: *Opa, von Braun and Operation Paperclip* (2011: Amazon), and PUBLIC MEMORY (2006: The Cinema Guild). She adapted *Portrait of a Marriage* by Nigel Nicolson into the successful, four-hour drama starring Janet McTeer as Vita Sackville-West, produced by the BBC (1989: WGBH for PBS). Stroh is also the author of the five-part novel cycle **Tabou**, “the American Downton Abbey” (2011-2012: Publish Green). Learn more at <http://www.workwithstroh.com>

About The Madrid International Film Festival

Following on nine years of success with the spring **Tenerife Film Festival** and six years with the autumn **St. Tropez Film Festival**, MIFF’s organizers recently added a summer event to accommodate producers’ and filmmakers’ demand for worthy competition in the second quarter.

For the third year in a row, Madrid has been the venue for stiff but friendly competition between both established and emerging screenwriters and filmmakers exhibiting strong work across genres. This year the competition got even stiffer, with several nominations arriving at the festival with laurels and distribution already secured, like THE COMMON MAN starring **Ben Kingsley** and **Ben Cross**, shot in Sri Lanka and directed by **Chandram Rutnam**; NO GOD, NO MASTER, starring **David Strathairn** and directed by **Terry Green**; and the award-winning documentary feature RISING ABOVE THE BLUES: *The Story of Jimmy Scott* featuring **Joe Pesci**, **Quincy Jones** and **Madeleine Peyroux**, directed by **Yoon-ha Chang**. This attracted English language development executives looking for fresh material from world-class screenwriters with strong, independent voices.

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