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NEWS

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“2016 Sun Valley Film Festival Gives Boost to Idaho Filmmaking with *One Potato* Short Screenplay Competition and Gem State Award”

Sun Valley, ID..... While the Sun Valley Film Festival (SVFF), presented by Zions Bank, has quickly become a hot ticket on the national film festival circuit, the festival has always made a special effort to support Idaho’s small but growing film industry and its cadre of talented filmmakers. The SVFF’s unique *One Potato* short screenplay competition and its Gem State Award are two examples of this focus on supporting creative and economic opportunities for Idaho and its residents.

One Potato

The SVFF launched the *One Potato Film Initiative* in 2015 to support emerging filmmakers and to encourage and incentivize filmmaking in the state of Idaho. The winning screenwriter, Christian Lybrook of Boise, Idaho, received \$2500 towards producing his short film *Carbon* and he then raised another \$25,000 to complete it. *Carbon* was shot in Idaho this fall and will have its world premiere next spring during the festival. “The support I’ve received from the Festival and the advising provided by their professional industry connections has been invaluable to me as a filmmaker in Idaho,” said Lybrook. “The festival has definitely helped put Idaho on the map for the film industry, and my colleagues and I are excited to continue to be a part of an event that showcases our state, our industry and the talent here in Idaho so well. And, of course, I’m psyched to premiere *Carbon* at the festival in March!”

The winning 2016 *One Potato* script will receive \$5000 towards filming their story on location in Idaho and will have its world premiere at the 2017 Sun Valley Film Festival, along with a host of other benefits including hands-on mentoring from industry professionals. As a producing partner on the film, SVFF will connect the winner with seasoned filmmaker participants, award-winning filmmaker advisors, broker deals on production resources, and help build a presence for the film. The winning *One Potato* short script will be announced at the *One Potato Film Initiative* reception during the 2016 Sun Valley Film Festival in March.

The 2016 Sun Valley Film Festival's unique *One Potato* short screenplay competition is now open and accepting admissions through December 11, 2015. Full details on submission requirements can be found at www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/submissions/one-potato-submissions. Final deadline for submissions is December 11, 2015.

Gem State Award

Each year since its inception, the Sun Valley Film Festival and Zions Bank have offered this special award for an Idaho film. The Gem State Award is a \$1,000 juried prize that recognizes an Idaho filmmaker whose work best reflects the beauty and diversity of the Gem State. Past winners have included Jaffe Zinn for *Magic Valley*, Jesse Millward for *Craters of the Moon*, Andrew and Nathan Garcia for *The Lighthouse*, and Gregory Bayne and Christian Lybrook for *Zero Point*.

Zions Bank considers its continued sponsorship of SVFF an investment in the future of the Wood River Valley and an extension of the bank's commitment to the arts. "We're proud to support to the Sun Valley Film Festival and are impressed with its positive impact on the community and state," said Zions Bank area market president Tracy Groll. "At Zions Bank, we have a long history of supporting the arts and cultural projects because they help stimulate economic development and vibrancy in our communities."

Submissions for the regular 2016 SVFF film slate are currently being accepted. Details on deadlines and more at <http://sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/submissions/film-submissions/>

About the Sun Valley Film Festival

The Fifth Annual Sun Valley Film Festival, presented by Zions Bank, will run March 2-6, 2016, and will feature a curated slate of more than 60 cutting-edge films and TV premieres, engaging Coffee Talks with top industry insiders, fabulous parties and panels, a Screenwriters Lab led by award-winning writers and the spectacular SVFF Awards Bash. The combination of cutting-edge programming and bona-fide insider access in a fun, relaxed atmosphere is making the Sun Valley Film Festival a rising star in the world of destination festivals. This coming spring, filmmakers from around the world will bring their vision to the Sun Valley Film Festival, and movie lovers are invited to watch it come into focus. For festival details visit www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org. Get festival updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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Images available for download at <http://sunvalleyfilmfestival.org/media/>