



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Investors Bank Helps the Queens World Film Festival Thrive**

*Fifth Annual Festival is Screening 117 Independent Films at Local Venues from March 17 to 22*

Queens, New York (March 10, 2015) – Fulfilling its mission of making an important difference in local communities, Investors Bank is championing independent filmmakers by sponsoring the Fifth Annual Queens World Film Festival (QWFF). While the films and filmmakers are stars of the Festival, supporting and behind-the-scenes players like Investors Bank help to keep the QWFF growing and thriving. Investors is also proud to announce a grant from the Investors Foundation in support of the festival this year.

The Festival's Gala Opening Night Ceremonies will be held at the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) on Tuesday, March 17, beginning at 7:15 PM. With a variety of film genres being screened, the QWFF runs through Sunday, March 22, featuring a film lineup that includes feature-length narratives, short narratives, documentaries, LGBT, and animation.

This year, the QWFF will screen 117 independent films including 19 movies created by filmmakers from Queens. The local filmmaking can be especially linked to Investors' support of projects within the Borough, where the Bank has five branches and assists many local nonprofits. The overall films, which are from directors in the U.S. and 30 foreign countries, can be viewed at MoMI, 36-01 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Astoria; The Secret Theater, 44-02 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Long Island City; and P.S. 069, 77-02 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Jackson Heights. The complete Festival schedule with details about the films, show times, quick view content, and trailers is available at the QWFF website.

With over 290 people expected on Opening Night, the Festival's organizers will recognize the *Spirit of Queens Honoree*, **filmmaker Leon Ichaso**. This prestigious honor will be celebrated by other filmmakers, directors, actors, actresses, cinematographers, animators, and industry professionals. **QWFF Executive Director Katha Cato, Artistic Director Don Cato** and the many "Friends of the Festival" are honoring his career of independent films that especially portray the immigrant experience in New York City. The director's film *Bitter Sugar*, which depicts a disillusioned Cuban Communist, will be screened during the QWFF.

Before the opening night screening of six films covering a range of themes, the Festival will applaud local leaders, community members, nonprofits, and businesses whose support and backing is critical to the Festival's growth and ongoing success. Those recognized include **Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, New York City Film Commissioner Cynthia Lopez**, and **Investors Bank Senior Vice President and New York Regional Manager Ana Oliveira**.

"We stepped forward to support the Festival because of Katha and Don Cato's deep commitment to bring imaginative, compelling, and amusing independent films to Queens," said Investors Bank's Ms. Oliveira. "Also,

## Investors Bank Supports the Fifth Annual Queens World Film Festival

the Festival makes an extra effort to highlight the work of directors from our Borough where our Bank is working to be a part of the local culture.”

During the Festival’s opening night, Ms. Oliveira will introduce the World Premiere of the short narrative film titled *Big Girl* by **Queens-based director Lisa Melodia**. The film earned her a QWFF nomination in the “Best Director Narrative Short” category.

Tickets for Opening Night, the entire Festival, and single programs are available now on the QWFF website. Festival Box Office provides a range of ticket packages:

- Festival Pass with Opening and Closing Night events and admission to all films cost \$100
- Festival Pass without admission to Opening and Closing events is \$70
- The 4-Pack Screening Pass that offers access to four film programs is \$30
- Single Program Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$9 for seniors (over 65) and students (18 and under)

### **About Queens World Film Festival**

Turning five in 2015, QWFF is an annual multi-day and multi-venue festival, with youth-oriented educational initiatives and year-round screening opportunities for QWFF filmmakers, past and present. The Festival screens challenging films representative of quality independent cinema. Executive Director Katha Cato and Artistic Don Cato are especially interested in maverick filmmakers of any sex, orientation, ethnicity, country, region, and point of view. The Festival is seeking filmmakers who take a stand and show the audience content they have never seen before.

### **About Investors Bank**

Founded in 1926 and headquartered in Short Hills, N.J., Investors Bank has more than \$18.7 billion in assets and over 130 branches including 21 locations in New York City and five in Queens. Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors’ consumer banking services include deposit products, online and mobile banking, personal investing, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans.

In addition, Investors provides financing and a broad range of business banking services to corporations, nonprofits, municipalities, healthcare facilities, and professional service firms.

Investors Bank’s website is [www.myinvestorsbank.com](http://www.myinvestorsbank.com) , and the Bank can be followed on Facebook and Twitter.