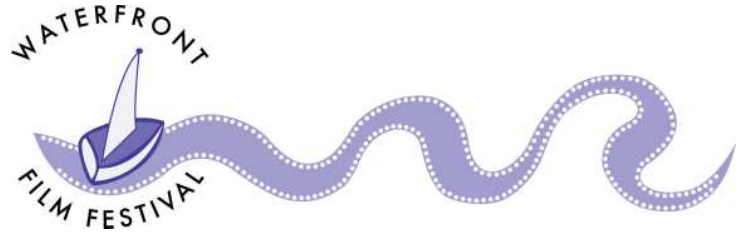


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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Waterfront Film Festival hosts Oscar® Experience** *Benefit gala offers live music, special guests and the Academy Awards®*

**Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 29, 2013** – Waterfront Film Festival brings the star-studded and glamorous silver screen to West Michigan, hosting the region’s only Academy-sanctioned celebration of Hollywood’s biggest night on Feb. 24 with Oscar® Experience at The Goei Center in Grand Rapids, Mich.

As one of only 46 official galas in the nation, the evening starts with a red carpet walk, the flash of paparazzi and a champagne welcome. Attendees will enjoy live music while having the opportunity to bid on an array of amazing auction items, including recreational outings, professional sports events and culinary getaways.

Oscar Experience tickets are \$65, or \$125 for a VIP ticket that includes music, food, open bar, VIP swag bag, official commemorative Oscar poster and official Academy Awards show program, as well as reserved seating. Tables are \$1,000 and provide an entourage of 10 with all the perks of individual VIP tickets at a \$250 savings.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org) or by calling (269) 857-8351.

Seth MacFarlane, voice actor and creator of the animated hit TV series “Family Guy” and the 2012 film “Ted”, will host this year’s Academy Awards presentation. The Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby Theatre™ at Hollywood & Highland Center® and televised live to 225 countries.

The doors at The Goei Center, 818 Butterworth St. SW, open at 5:30 p.m. and the live broadcast of the 85th Academy Awards, shown on multiple wall-sized screens, begins at 8 p.m.

Oscar Experience is one of the best food nights of the year, with an assembly of the area’s most intriguing restaurateurs creating a variety of small plate dishes to dine on throughout the evening.

Part of the cost for each Oscar Experience ticket is eligible for a tax deduction as a donation to a charitable organization.

“The Oscar Experience: Benefits are a natural extension of the philanthropic work the Academy does year-round,” Academy CEO Dawn Hudson said. “We are thrilled to share a part of the Oscar experience with movie fans nationwide while supporting charities across the country.”

### **About Waterfront Film Festival**

Now in its 15th year, the Waterfront Film Festival celebrates independent film and filmmakers in a non-competitive environment. Located along the Lake Michigan waterfront, WFF is one of the leading destination film festivals in the Midwest, regularly hosting Midwest premieres of Academy Award-winning and nominated documentaries. Recognized as a top five film festival, WFF is a non-profit event committed to providing a “middle coast” venue for independent filmmakers while further enhancing the artistic draw of West Michigan. For more information on the 2013 festival, scheduled for June 13-16 in South Haven, Mich., visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org)