



Press Release

For Immediate Release

**2005 DON HAIG AWARD TO BE PRESENTED TO ROB STEFANIUK
@ Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival on June 19th**

TORONTO, ONTARIO, June 9, 2005 – Rob Stefaniuk, who wrote, directed and starred in the feature film *Phil The Alien* has been selected as the 2005 recipient of The Don Haig Award.

Patricia Rozema (*Mansfield Park*) will make the presentation of a \$10,000 cheque to Rob on Sunday, June 19, at the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival Closing Picnic and Awards.

“Don liked filmmakers who took chances and films that made him laugh. Rob Stefaniuk's work fits both criteria and I'm sure that Don would have loved to meet Rob and get involved in his next project”, said jury member Paul Caulfield.

Anne Mackenzie, a nominating judge added; “Rob Stefaniuk's work is funny and original and seems especially deserving of this Don Haig Award which recognizes talent in such a generous and unstuffy fashion – very much the way Don Haig conducted his dealings with the film community.”

Don Haig began his career by quietly helping young filmmakers. And he knew how to pick them: *I've Heard The Mermaids Singing* directed by Patricia Rozema and produced by Alex Raffe. Oscar winner, *Artie Shaw Time Is All You've Got* directed by Brigitte Berman, *The Twist* by Ron Mann. There are many more.

The Don Haig Award for emerging filmmakers was established in 2002 by Don's life companion Bill Schultz, his family, colleagues, and the filmmakers he so vigorously supported. The Award is a unique opportunity for members of the Canadian film and television community to “give back” in his spirit.

Don Haig's legacy is an annual no strings-attached cash prize for the filmmaker – to buy some creative time, to fill a financial gap in a production, to complete a film; whatever is needed.

The Award is administered by a volunteer committee, chaired by Joan Schafer. Rob was one of 16 filmmakers nominated from across Canada by a national panel of judges and the final selection is made by an independent jury.

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Rob Stefaniuk has worked in numerous television shows as an actor, including the series Kids in the Hall, Catwalk, Kung Fu, Monk and Superstar. At the age of 23, Rob wrote his first screenplay, *The Size of Watermelons*, which was produced as an independent feature in 1996. In 2003, he was story editor and line producer, and did additional editing, for the independent feature *Public Domain* (dir. Kris Lefcoe). Shortly thereafter he made his directorial debut with the hilarious short film *Waiting for the Man* (official selection Sundance). Rob Stefaniuk wrote, directed, stars in, and wrote some of the music for *Phil the Alien*, his feature directorial debut. Phil debuted at the Toronto International Film festival 2004 where it received the "Spirit of Film Honor". Rob also won Best First Feature at the Cineast Sudbury Film Festival. He is currently in development on his next feature, a rock 'n' roll vampire movie called *Suck*.

The Don Haig Committee will continue to award up to \$10,000 annually. The Don Haig Fund accepts donations in memory of Don Haig. For more information on The Don Haig Fund and Award as well as a listing of this year's Jury and Nomination Judges, please go to the website:

www.donhaig.org

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