



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Lori Draz
draz@monmouth.com
732-735-5441

**8TH ANNUAL GARDEN STATE FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
HONORARY CHAIRPERSON**

*Howard C. Birdsall to Lend Commitment and Support at This Year's
Festival in Asbury Park*

ASBURY PARK, NJ (Feb. X, 2010) – The 8th Annual Garden State Film Festival announced today that Howard C. Birdsall will act as the 2010 Honorary Chairperson for the event. The festival, happening March 25 to March 28 in Asbury Park, will benefit from Birdsall's longstanding connection to the entertainment industry and the state of New Jersey.

As President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board of Birdsall Services Group, Inc., Birdsall is responsible for the overall management of the third largest engineering and consulting firm in New Jersey and has over four decades of experience in diverse engineering regimens.

He began his career in 1965 at Birdsall Engineering where he worked extensively in the amusement park industry serving as client manager for planning, permitting, design, and construction of various major amusement rides/roller coasters, outdoor theaters, and theatrical shows throughout the United States. Birdsall was promoted to President of Birdsall Engineering in 1975 and served as key liaison with the entertainment, theme park, and casino/gaming industries. His close ties and appreciation for such industries make him an appropriate fit for this year's Honorary Chairperson at the Garden State Film Festival.

Birdsall received a Bachelor of Science degree from Albright College and has participated in advanced study courses at Rutgers University and the Newark College of Engineering. He is licensed by the New Jersey Board of Professional Planners and the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Birdsall is a member of the American Society of Planning Officials; National Society of Professional Engineers; and Fellow, American Congress of Surveying and Mapping.

Birdsall also served as a Trustee on the Meridian Health System Board, and is currently serving as Chairperson of the Meridian Health Management Board, as well as being a committee member of the Meridian Finance Committee and Capital Formation Subcommittee. Birdsall has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Brookdale Community College since 2003, and serves on the Board of Directors of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. Birdsall now brings his dedication to serving the state of New Jersey to his position as Honorary Chairperson on the Garden State Film Festival.

For more information on the Garden State Film Festival, please visit www.gsff.org.

About the 8th Annual Garden State Film Festival

The Garden State Film Festival was born in 2002 after a chance encounter in a Sea Girt, NJ Grocery store by 25-year film industry veteran Diane Raver and the well-known Hollywood actor Robert Pastorelli. Through his deep ties to Hollywood Mr. Pastorelli and Ms. Raver were able to bring the Garden State Film Festival to life at its successful premiere in 2003. Since that time, such industry notables such as Glenn Close, Frank Vincent, Batman producer Michael Uslan, Austin Pendleton, Kurtwood Smith, James Gandolfini, Budd Schulberg and others have lent their support. GSFF is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization held in the spring of each year at the Paramount Theater/Convention Hall complex as well as other venues in Asbury Park, New Jersey and surrounding area. For more information about the Garden State Film Festival please visit <http://www.gsff.org/index.php> or call 1-877-908-7050.

About the Sponsors of the 8th Annual Garden State Film Festival

The 8th Annual Garden State Film Festival could not be possible without the generous support of the following sponsors. Platinum sponsors, who present the festival, are The Asbury Park Press, 40°74° Magazine, Metromix Jersey Shore and the Islander. The gold sponsor is Madison Marquette. Silver Sponsors include NJ Transit, Video Corporation of America, visitnj.org, Monmouth Arts and News 12 New Jersey. Bronze sponsors include New Jersey Monthly, Saker ShopRites, Inc., Currents Magazine, the Asbury Park Urban Enterprise Zone, njscreenwriter.org, 90.5 The Night and Media Services. Contributors include the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce, the Redbank Post, productionhub.com, The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Rue Events, docsmile.com. New Jersey Natural Gas, Tim McLoone's Supper Club, Yes!!! Let's Talk About You!, Extant Small Business, Fashion Fix, Bath Fitter, Smith Gatta Gelok Insurance and Surety Solutions, and King Limousine and Car Service. For more information about our sponsors please visit <http://www.gsff.org/sponsors.php>.

###