



Media Contact: Adam Eisenstein at (646) 221-2254
aeseinstein@chipchair.com

West Coast Premiere for *If You Could Say It In Words* at Method Fest

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CALABASAS, CA—

An award-winning love story about an impoverished painter with undiagnosed Asperger's syndrome, *If You Could Say It In Words* will have its second public screening and West Coast Premiere at the Method Fest film festival in Calabasas, CA on March 29 at 7pm.

Written and directed by Nicholas Gray, the film takes a nuanced look at uncharted terrain. "Alvin [Keith]'s performance as Nelson is quite possibly the most authentic portrayal of an autistic person that I've ever seen in the movies...It's refreshing to finally see a film that explores an autistic individual who isn't two dimensional," says Alex Plank, founder of autism advocacy website WrongPlanet.net.

Nelson (Alvin Keith) has Asperger's syndrome, a condition that impairs social function. Undiagnosed, African-American, and a painter, he is pushed to society's fringes. He meets Sadie (Marin Ireland), a young woman with broken dreams who now treads water at a job that's not her career, has a roommate who's not her friend, and sleeps with her married boss, Mark (Gerry Lehane). A one-night stand grows into an unlikely romance wherein two people lost in different ways begin to find themselves through each other. But the conventional expectations imposed by others -- and by Sadie -- put their relationship in jeopardy. Unapologetically romantic, savagely realistic, *Words* takes an unflinching look at the price of integrity and the illogical ways of the heart.

If You Could Say It In Words previously screened at the Derby City Film Festival in Louisville, Kentucky, where it took top honors with "Best Feature" and "Best of Fest" awards by audience balloting.

The film features:

- Obie-award winner Marin Ireland, who makes her Broadway debut this spring in Neil LaBute's *reasons to be pretty* and before that garnered rave reviews for Sarah Kane's *Blasted* [Soho Rep].
- Broadway and regional theatre actor Alvin Keith, who has just concluded a three-theatre world premiere run of Daniel Beaty's *Resurrection* (Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, and Philadelphia Theatre Company)

Other featured actors in the film include New York theatre veteran Gerry Lehane, Yvonne Woods (Yale Rep, ACT, Alley Theater), PaSean Wilson ("Another World", *Striptease*), Stephen McKinley Henderson (Drama Desk Award Winner for *Jitney*, *Everyday People*, "Law & Order"), and Dana Snyder (Master Shake from *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*).

This is writer/director Nicholas Gray's first feature film. Nicholas has worked as an actor or playwright at The Drilling Company, Innocent Theatre, Hypothetical Theatre, Lincoln Center Directors Lab and The Public Theater. Recently he worked as director and dramaturg for the world premiere of *Burning My Dreams to the Ground* and as director and editor on video installations for the world premiere of *User 927*.

The film was shot by cinematographer Richard Sands, noted for his lighting direction and special effects photography for films by Francis Ford Coppola, Stephen Spielberg, Sam Raimi and Joe Dante, among others. Rick recently acted as cinematographer for *Men's Affair*, the 2006 remake of *Little Fugitive*, and the upcoming *The Funeral Party*. He continues his role as permanent director of photography for acclaimed photographer Gregory Crewdson.

If You Could Say It In Words is the first feature-length produced by A Chip & A Chair Films LLC, whose mission is to support the uncompromising vision of film and theatre artists. The company used an innovatively democratic structure to raise capital for the movie, creating a financial model that allowed them to sell individual shares for as little as \$225 while staying within SEC guidelines. They raised their funds in two phases, shooting 40% of the film in New York and editing it for presentation to investors. Interest in the screened selections eventually garnered the shareholders needed to complete shooting and post-production in Philadelphia.

The screening will occur at Founders Hall, Calabasas Civic Center, 100/200 Civic Center Way, Calabasas, CA 91302. For ticketing information see the Method Fest website.

The Method Fest, named after the famous "Method" school of acting, showcases breakout acting performances in character and story-driven films. More than 120 films that have premiered or played at The Method Fest, including recent box office hits *Waitress* and *The Visitor*, have received theatrical, TV or video distribution.

A full press packet with photos from *If You Could Say It In Words* as well as further information about all cast and crew are available upon request. Contact Director of Marketing and Development Adam Eisenstein at (646) 221-2254 or at aeseinstein@chipchair.com.

WEBSITES:

Movie: www.IfYouCould-Movie.com

Festival-specific info: www.IfYouCould-Movie.com/Festivals ("F" is case-sensitive)

Production Company: www.chipchair.com

Festival Home: www.methodfest.com