

Ansbacher Bahamas continues to celebrate its 50th Anniversary by sponsoring The Bahamas International Film Festival

28 November 2007

On December 6th through to the 13th, the Bahamian, Caribbean and international film-makers will be meeting at the Bahamas International Film Festival to celebrate film production at its best. The activities for this seven-day event include an award ceremony as well as the showcasing of several different film genres including documentaries, comedies, drama and romance. These films will be shown at the Atlantis Theatre and selected Galleria Cinemas in Nassau, Bahamas.

Ansbacher's Bank in the Bahamas, a main sponsor of the festival, is very excited about this great opportunity for Caribbean and international film makers to network and gather constructive information to perfect their art.

Managing Director of Ansbacher, Michael Mayhew-Arnold expressed his delight to be involved in shaping the advancement of Bahamian film makers, according to him, "It's an exciting time and the Bahamas International Film Festival is the place to be."

"Ansbacher Bank in The Bahamas is pleased, in this its 50th anniversary year, to be sponsoring the Bahamas International Film Festival (BIFF) for another year. It believes that the BIFF is a central column in the development of film and arts in The Bahamas and in The Caribbean. The Bahamas and other Caribbean countries are overflowing with artistic talent that needs an outlet and the BIFF gives that focus," Mr. Mayhew-Arnold said.

Speaking about one of the new initiatives that Ansbacher Bank has undertaken in its efforts to support Bahamian film makers, Mr. Mayhew-Arnold commented on their Rising Star Tribute.

"Ansbacher Bahamas has started the Rising Star Tribute believing that it is a significant step towards the recognition of acting and film talent in the Caribbean film industry, which should be encouraged. It is important not only to recognize present and past high achievers but more importantly to give recognition to those who will be future achievers.

"Ansbacher Bahamas is also sponsoring the Film Makers Residency Programme which brings together a pool of international film related career experts and makes them available to the young Bahamian and Caribbean film makers at the film festival so that their experience can be shared by the young film makers."

These film-makers were selected for this mentoring programme on the basis of films they entered for selection. Over 12 people submitted their films and five candidates have been chosen. These candidates are M.A. Drayton, Jason Darcy, Kareem Mortimer, Gustavius Smith, and Ian Poitier. The most impressive of the five participants is to receive \$10,000 toward their



professional development from Ansbacher Bank.

"Ansbacher Bahamas has therefore become one of the main sponsors of BIFF and in this way we are able to give back to The Bahamas so that we can help the youngsters with artistic film talent to share that talent with all of us," Mr. Mayhew-Arnold said.

The Bahamas

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is home to some 250 banks and trust companies, of which 164 are subsidiaries of institutions originating from 26 countries including Switzerland, Canada, and the United States. With combined balance sheet assets of \$300 billion and over \$1 trillion in assets under administration, the financial services industry is a major contributor to the economy of The Bahamas. There are approximately 4,500 people employed in the Banking and Trust Sector.

Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited - Background

Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited is one of oldest offshore bank and trust companies in The Bahamas, having been established in 1957. It offers a comprehensive range of services that include private banking, fiduciary services and wealth management tailored to specific client needs.

It was formerly known as Bahamas International Trust Company Limited, ("BITCO"), and was previously owned by a consortium of banks with Barclays Bank as the majority shareholder. BITCO was sold to the Ansbacher Group of Companies in 1989, changing its name to Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited in 1994.

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Notes to editors:

The Ansbacher Group, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Qatar National Bank (QNB), provides tailored financial solutions to high net worth and institutional clients worldwide. The Group's services span private and specialist banking, wealth management, investment advice and fiduciary services. The Group is represented in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, Bahamas, U.A.E., Qatar and Switzerland.

Established in 1964 as the first Qatari owned commercial bank, QNB is listed on the Qatari Stock Exchange with 50% ownership by the Qatari government and the balance held by public shareholders. It is the largest bank in Qatar with total assets of some \$10 billion, controlling around 50% of the assets in the country's banking system. QNB is rated in the top 150 banks in the world in terms of capital strength and has a long-term credit rating of A+.

Michael Mayhew-Arnold is a Senior Member of the Ansbacher Group of Companies. He is currently a member of the London based CEO Group Steering Committee; Group Risk

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Committee; Chairman of the Group Litigation Committee. He is also the Ansbacher Group's Legal Director and presently is also Managing Director of Ansbacher (Bahamas) Limited. He has previously been Managing Director of Ansbacher (Cayman) Limited and a director of Sarnia Yachts Limited, Ansbacher's niche yacht management company. He is also presently a director of Ansbacher (Switzerland) AG and Ansbacher & Company Limited, Ansbacher's London Bank. Michael is a qualified UK Barrister and has been with the Ansbacher Group for 19 years.

Michael is a director of the Association of International Bank and Trust Companies ('AIBT') in the Bahamas and an advisor to the Bahamas International Film Festival ('BIFF'). He fulfils both a commercial and legal role in the Ansbacher Group.

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