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For Immediate Release:

PAUL CASTRO JR. TO RECEIVE ROBERT PASTORELLI RISING STAR AWARD
Honor Pays Tribute to Late Co-Founder of the Garden State Film Festival

Atlantic City, NJ, March 10, 2014 – The Garden State Film Festival was founded by the late actor Robert Pastorelli in 2002, two years prior to his passing. In his memory, GSFF awards the Rising Star to a young, up-and-coming actor (or actress) from New Jersey. This year’s recipient is Paul Castro Jr., a native of Hazlet.

Recently, Castro played "Eric" in “The Skeleton Twins,” directed by Craig Johnson and starring Kristen Wiig, Luke Wilson, Bill Hader and Ty Burrell. It was featured at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. Other recent works include “Black Dog, Red Dog,” directed and produced by James Franco. He stars as Ian, a troubled teenager in the independent feature “Buffalo Boys,” directed by Raymond Guarnieri. “Buffalo Boys” won Best Coming of Age Film at the 2013 Manhattan Film Festival; and Best Crime Drama at the 2013 Indie Gathering in Cleveland, OH. Castro is currently producing and starring in his second film with Guarnieri titled “Harvard on Hudson.”

A recent graduate from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Castor earned his BFA in Acting exclusively from the Meisner Studio. “Paul embodies all the qualities we look for in our Rising Star,” says Gwen Pastorelli, Robert’s sister, GSFF Board Member and Chair of the award search committee. “He is bright, dynamic, ambitious and proud of his New Jersey roots,” she adds.

This year, GSSF is moving to Atlantic City from Asbury Park and the Awards Dinner will be held at the Trump Taj Mahal on April 6, 2014. Tickets are \$125.00, available in advance only, at www.gsff.org.

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About the Garden State Film Festival:

The Garden State Film Festival was envisioned by 25-year film industry veteran Diane Raver and the late Hollywood actor Robert Pastorelli in 2002 and launched the following year. Since 2003, thousands of films have made their public premiers, hundreds of thousands of people from around the world have attended; and the total infusion of cash to local businesses since inception exceeds \$5 million. Until 2013, it was held in Asbury Park, in and around the Convention Center complex. In 2014, it will move to Atlantic City as a major component of DO AC, the marketing campaign to promote arts and culture the city spearheaded by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. The GSFF is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization.

For more information about the Garden State Film Festival, contact: info@gsff.org

About the Sponsors of the 12th Annual Garden State Film Festival:

The 12th Annual Garden State Film Festival could not be possible without the generous support of the following sponsors: Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, Video Corporation of America, visitnj.org, Production Hub, njscreenwriter.org, Showbiz Software, Media Services, NJ Transit, NJ TV, the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and others. To become a sponsor, please contact anne@gsff.org or 732-221-6076.

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