

LA Harbor International Film Festival™

P.O. Box 5202 - San Pedro, CA 90733 ~ Telephone: (310) 519-07

www.laharborfilmfest.com

To create a cinematic bridge between the people of the region and the people of the world

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Contacts: Stephanie Mardesich, LAHIFF Festival Director**
310/519-0756 or stephaniemardesich@yahoo.com
Will Caperton y Montoya
DCA Director of Marketing and Development
(213) 202-5538 or will.caperton@lacity.org

MEDIA ALERT – CALENDAR LISTING

Selection for The Big Read Program L.A. Opening Night
LA Harbor International Film Festival™ Screens *Chased By the Dogs* May 3
Warner Grand Theatre in Historic Downtown San Pedro - the Port of Los Angeles
Movie Based on Acclaimed Egyptian Novel *The Thief and the Dogs*

The opening night of the 10th annual LA Harbor International Film Festival (LAHIFF) that takes place May 2-5 will feature *Chased by the Dogs*, on Friday May 3. Film is the screen adaptation of the novel **The Thief and The Dogs**, by Egyptian author and Nobel Laureate, Naguib Mahfouz, selection for the 2013 The Big Read Program L.A. (TBRLA). **Admission is free.**

The film presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Warner Grand Theatre (WGT), 478 West 6th Street, in historic downtown San Pedro, the Port of Los Angeles. A discussion about the book and film will follow the screening. All festival films will be screened at the WGT during the four day event.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The Big Read is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. The NEA presents The Big Read (TBR), in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest, brings together partners across the U.S.A. to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

Since the inception of The Big Read in 2007, the NEA has annually awarded grants to the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) to be a partner and produce TBRLA. This year marks DCA's fifth year of producing the program, with Mahfouz's acclaimed book, a psychological thriller and morality tale set in Cairo, Egypt that follows a thief's quest for revenge.

This is the second time LAHIFF has participated as a program partner with DCA providing in-kind sponsorship. The previous book selection was The Joy Luck Club in 2011 with the film version of the acclaimed novel as the festival's opening night presentation. LAHIFF has supported literacy since its inception with the education outreach program "Read the Book, See the Movie"™ (RBSM) that has distributed thousands of books to school children and community members.

More.....

LAHIFF Opening Night May 3 *Chased By The Dogs* at Warner Grand Theatre.....
Page Two of Two

The 2013 BRLA consists of a series of activities from March through May presented by DCA in conjunction with several community and cultural organizations that along with LAHIFF include: media partner ABC7; the Culinary Historians of Southern California; the Egyptian American Organization; the Egyptian Consulate in Los Angeles; the Egyptian Theatre; the Levantine Cultural Center; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Los Angeles Public Library; the Los Angeles Unified School District; the Museum of the San Fernando Valley; the Music Center; the Oasis Actor's Studio; the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools; Piccolo Books; the Sony Pictures Media Arts Program; and many more.

Complimentary copies of the books are distributed throughout the City of Los Angeles. The public is invited to participate in the 2013 BRLA and enjoy the many activities offered by DCA and its community partners, including a civic ceremony at the historic Los Angeles City Hall April 2, a food lecture and tasting, art exhibitions, live performances, film screenings, discussion panel, book festival, visits to cultural landmarks, and a Middle Eastern marketplace.

For more details about TBRLA see www.culturela.org

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