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**RISING STAR EMERGES FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN STATE  
FILM FESTIVAL**

*TV/Film/Theatre Triple Threat Receives 2010 Robert Pastorelli Rising Star  
Award*

**ASBURY PARK, NJ (Feb. X, 2010)** - The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden State Film Festival is proud to present Ronnie Marmo as the recipient of the Robert Pastorelli Rising Star Award. The GSFF festival runs from March 25 to March 28, with a concluding awards dinner on Sunday at 6 p.m. where Marmo will accept his prestigious award.

The award is named after the late award-winning actor and co-founder of the GSFF, Robert Pastorelli, who was instrumental in bringing the lauded event to New Jersey. The 2010 Rising Star, Ronnie Marmo, grew up in Woodbridge, New Jersey, making his theatre acting debut at age 23 at NJ venues such as the Edison Valley Playhouse and the Villagers Theatre in Somerset.

Marmo went on to win the 1997 Cable ACE award and was nominated for a second award as host and producer of the Documentary of the Year for his work with Comcast Cable. From there, he joined the Broadway National Touring Company as 'Tony' in "Tony N Tina's Wedding" where he got married eight times a week for a year.

Driven by his confidence and success, Marmo drove to Hollywood to pursue a career in acting with 68 cents left in his pocket. After arriving there, he landed the role of 'Moof' in the MGM movie, "Deuces Wild." Then, in 2001, Marmo started the 68 Cent Crew Theatre Company and went on to open his own 99-seat theatre on Sunset Blvd., which he aptly named Theatre 68.

Marmo has since produced more than 50, directed more than 15, and starred in more than 30 plays, and has also written several scripts, both for the stage and the screen. His semi-autobiographical screenplay "West of Brooklyn," released in 2009, which he wrote, produced and starred in, enjoyed a theatrical release at the Clearview Cinema in Red Bank. The film is available at [www.westofbrooklynthemovie.com](http://www.westofbrooklynthemovie.com).

Marmo is no stranger to TV as he is a regular on ABC's "General Hospital" in the role of 'Ronnie Dimestico' and has guest starred in the hit CBS series "JAG," and "The Young and The Restless."

Marmo is currently rehearsing his one-man show "Lenny's Back...and Boy is He Pissed" in which he portrays Lenny Bruce. The show will be opening in Los Angeles in early April and there will be a limited engagement at the Edison Valley Playhouse in New Jersey on April 22, 23rd & 25th. For tickets and info go to [www.ronniemarmo.com](http://www.ronniemarmo.com)

Marmo is also currently the lead in two films, "Limbo Lounge" and "Pizza With Bullets," both slated for release in 2010. "Pizza With Bullets" will be screening at this year's GSFF and Marmo could not be more excited to be back in his home state. "It is such an honor to be given this award and to be able to bring my life in Hollywood back home with me. My New Jersey roots have shaped who I am today and I am so pleased to have my accomplishments recognized in my home town".

For more information on Ronnie Marmo, please visit [www.ronniemarmo.com](http://www.ronniemarmo.com). For more information on the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden State Film Festival, or to purchase tickets for screenings and events, please visit [www.gsff.org](http://www.gsff.org).

#### About the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 it's 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 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden State Film Festival

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden State Film Festival could not be possible with out 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](http://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](http://njscreenwriter.org), 90.5 The Night and Media Services. Contributors include the Asbury Park Chamber of Commerce, the Redbank Post, [productionhub.com](http://productionhub.com), The Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Rue Events, [docsmile.com](http://docsmile.com). New Jersey Natural Gas, Tim McLoone's Supper Club, Yes!!! Let's Talk About You!, Extant Small Business, Bath Fitter, Fashion Fix, 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>.

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