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Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 24, 2011

STARDUST & THE BANDIT WINS AWARD

(La Jolla, Ca, October 17, 2011) The TV pilot film **STARDUST & THE BANDIT** has garnered a prestigious "Award of Merit" from *The Best Shorts Competition*. The production, shot at Old Tucson Studios, is the brain child of local film makers, Sarah Sher and Dick Fisher. The show is a comedy revolving around the misadventures of an ex-mob accountant in witness protection at Old Tucson Studios.



The film features the talents of many local Tucson actors and film crew members. A veritable mob of potential actors descended on Old Tucson for an open casting call prior to the production. Writer/Director Sarah Sher explained, "We want to demonstrate the depth of talent, in front of and behind the camera, here in Tucson. Instead of complaining about the lack of production work in Tucson, let's just show them what we've got!"

Veteran film maker Dick Fisher (THE BROTHERS McMULLEN), who shared writing and directing duties also emphasized the importance of showing what can be accomplished here in Southern Arizona. "Tucson has proven itself time and again as a great location for shooting film and television. The various factors which have conspired to diminish the work here have not changed the fact that it's a great place to create movies."

Old Tucson Studios CEO Pete Mangelsdorf, who served as the film's Executive Producer, explains, "STARDUST & THE BANDIT is just the kind of show that could revitalize production in Tucson. We are shopping this project around Hollywood to find the right venue for it to air on. The television landscape is rapidly and radically evolving, with cable and internet companies creating original programming to fill their schedules. Our program would be a great fit for one of these outlets."

The Best Shorts Competition recognizes film professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity and those who produce standout entertainment and exceptional production skills. Entries are judged by highly qualified professionals in the film industry. Information about *The Best Shorts Competition* can be found at www.thebestshorts.net.

Thomas Baker, Ph.D, who chairs *The Best Shorts Competition* said, "Best Shorts laurels are not easy to win. Entries are received from around the world. In winning this prize the filmmakers join the ranks of other high profile winners of this internationally respected award. The judges were pleased with the exceptionally high quality of the entries. The goal of *The Best Shorts Completion* is to help winners achieve the recognition they deserve."

For Immediate Release