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Lt. Governor Guadagno Celebrates New Jersey Film Industry at 13th Annual Garden State Film Festival

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Trenton, NJ – Highlighting New Jersey's vibrant film industry, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno attended the 13th Annual Garden State Film Festival in Atlantic City on Sunday night to recognize filmmakers, producers and actors from New Jersey and around the world.

"The arts are a cornerstone of what makes New Jersey unique," said Lt. Governor Guadagno. "I am proud to recognize all of the honorees for the immense impact they have made, and will continue to make, for the arts and theatre in New Jersey."

Launched in 2003, the Garden State Film Festival was developed by film industry veteran Diane Raver and the late Hollywood actor Robert Pastorelli. Thousands of films have made their public premiers at the Festival, which has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people from around the world.

"We are so delighted Lt. Governor Guadagno joined us again at the Garden State Film Festival. In doing so, she demonstrates her appreciation for how the arts positively impact communities, particularly here in Atlantic City," said Diane Raver, founder and executive of the Festival.

Lt. Governor Guadagno presented the Impact Award for Business and Arts Alliance to Deborah Frank, Executive Vice President of Frank Theatres. Lt. Governor Guadagno was the inaugural recipient of the award in 2014. A Division of the Frank Family Entertainment Group, Frank Theatres introduced "talkie" films to the Philadelphia area, built the first twin theatre in the United States and developed one of New Jersey's earliest Mega-Plex Cinemas.

"Congratulations to Deborah Frank, who singlehandedly helped foster art films at the Jersey Shore and flawlessly fuses business with the love of art," added Lt. Governor Guadagno. "It is people like Deborah who ensure that the arts in New Jersey are not only a cultural engine, but an economic engine as well."

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