

BANK ONE presents

40th
Anniversary



THE CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 17, 2004

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Andrew Rodgers
Chicago International Film Festival
312-425-9400 x114
publicity@chicagofilmfestival.com

Nick Harkin/Sarah O'Hanlon
Carol Fox & Associates
773-327-3830 x103/116
nickh@carolfoxassociates.com
saraho@carolfoxassociates.com

2004 COMPETITION WINNERS

Films from Hungary, USA and UK are awarded top prizes

CHICAGO – October 17 – The 40th Chicago International Film Festival, the oldest competitive film festival in North America, brings 109 feature films and 54 short films from 44 countries to Chicago, Oct. 7-21. Today, the Festival is proud to announce the results of this year's film competitions.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

The **Gold Hugo** is awarded to:

Kontroll (Hungary), directed by Nimród Antal, for "the vitality and flair with which it expresses the feelings of a disillusioned generation."

The **Silver Hugo – Special Jury Prize** is awarded to:

Turtles Can Fly / Lak poshtha ham parvaz mikonand (Iraq/Iran), directed by Bahman Ghobadi, for "reflecting with force and subtlety the unspeakable things that war does to our children."

A **Silver Hugo** is awarded to:

Day and Night / Dag og nat (Denmark), directed by Simon Staho, for "its perfectly balanced ensemble acting by Mikael Persbrandt, Sam Kessel, Maria Bonnevie, Michael Nyqvist, Lena Endre, Hans Alfredson, Pernilla August, Fares Fares, Marie Goranzon, Tuva Novotny and Erland Josephson."

A **Silver Hugo** is awarded to:

Whisky (Uruguay/Argentina/Germany) for "the direction of Juan Pablo Rebella and Pablo Stoll, its confident pacing and ironic distance."

A **Gold Plaque** is awarded to:

The Harvest Time / Vremya Zhatbiy (Russia), directed by Marina Razbezhkina, for its "complex and poetic evocation of an ambiguous period in Soviet history."

A **Gold Plaque** is awarded to:

Nobody Knows / Daremo Shiranai (Japan), directed by Kore-eda Hirokazu, for its "meticulous recreation of the special world of children left to themselves."

Also, the jury unanimously recommends that the Festival give a **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Ousmane Sembene**, whose first film appeared in the same year as the first Chicago International Film Festival.

The International Competition main jury featured Locarno International Film Festival director Irene Bignardi (Italy), producer and film director Izza Genini (Morocco/France), script consultant Gabriella Prekop (Hungary), filmmaker Arturo Ripstein (Mexico), actress Alexandra Stewart (France) and film critic and author John Russell Taylor (UK).

NEW DIRECTORS COMPETITION

The **New Directors Competition** showcases first and second-time filmmakers whose productions demonstrate a strong command of the film medium. A \$5,000 cash prize will be awarded to the top prize-winner.

The **New Directors Silver Hugo** goes to:

Buffalo Boy / Mua Len Trau (Vietnam/France/Belgium), directed by Minh Nguyen-Vô

The **New Directors Honorable Mention** goes to:

In Casablanca, the Angels Don't Fly / A Casablanca les Anges ne Volent pas (Morocco/Italy), directed by Mohamed Asli.

The New Directors Competition Jury featured Executive Director of the IFP/Chicago Elizabeth Donius (USA), *Variety* film critic Lisa Nesselson, *Chicago Free Press* film critic Hank Sartin (USA) and RBB-Inforadio editor/moderator Reiner Veit (Germany).

FIPRESCI COMPETITION

The Federation Internationale de la Presse Cinematographique (FIPRESCI) Award recognizes first and second-time filmmakers whose works are part of the main competition or the New Directors competition.

The **2003 FIPRESCI Prize** is awarded to **Campfire / Medurat Hashevet** (Israel), directed by Joseph Cedar.

The FIPRESCI jury featured *Positif* president and film critic Grégory Valens (France), *Clarín* film critic Diego Lerer (Argentina), *Postexpress – Sinema* film critic Necati Sönmez (Turkey) and *Trouw & De Filmkrant* film critic Belinda van de Graff (The Netherlands).

DOCUFEST COMPETITION

The **Gold Hugo for Best Documentary Feature** is awarded to:

Born Into Brothels (USA), directed by Zana Briski & Ross Kauffman

The **Silver Hugo for Best Documentary Feature** is awarded to:

Battleground: 21 Days on the Empire's Edge (USA), directed by Stephen Marshall

The **Gold Plaque for Best Documentary Feature** is awarded to:

The 10th District Court / 10e chambre - Instants d'audience (France), directed by Raymond Depardon

The **Silver Plaque for Best Documentary Feature** is awarded to:

The Souvenirs of Mr. X / Die Souvenirs des Herrn X (Austria), directed by Arash T. Riahi

The DocuFest Jury featured film writer Glenn Myrent, Greg Rhem (USA) and filmmaker and writer/consultant Fernanda Rossi.

Also, for winning the Best Documentary Feature award, Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman are awarded \$2000 and the "Level Above the Rest" Prize, sponsored by Level Vodka.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

The **Gold Hugo for Best Short Film** is awarded to **Cashback** (UK), directed by Sean Ellis.

The **Gold Hugo for Best Student Film** is awarded to **Shock Act** (USA), directed by Seth Grossman.

The **Gold Hugo for Best Animated Short** is awarded to **Creature Comforts – "Cats or Dogs?"** (UK), directed by Richard Golezowski.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION (continued)

Silver Hugos are awarded to Lancelot Von Naso's **The Surprise** (Germany) for **Narrative Short Film** and Jason Tammemägi's **Dublin 1** (Ireland) for **Animated Short Film**.

Gold Plaques are awarded to Gerd Gockell and Kirsten Winter's **Restored Weekend** (Germany/Switzerland), for **Experimental Short Film** and Greg Samata's **The Hot 8** (USA) for **Documentary Short Film**.

A Silver Plaque is awarded to Andrew Gura's **On the D.L.** (USA) for **Documentary Short Film**.

Certificates of Merit are awarded to **Dysmorpho** (Sweden), directed by Martin Kjellberg & Magnus Söderstedt and **Stray Bullet** (Brazil), directed by Victor Lopes for **Narrative Short Film**; **Escape** (Ireland), directed by John Rice and **Hello** (Australia), directed by Jonathan Nix for **Animated Short Film**; and **Joey** (USA), directed by Nancy Montuori Stein for **Documentary Short Film**.

The winners of the **Gold Hugo** for Best Short Film, Best Student Short Film and Best Animated Short Film will each receive \$2000. Additionally, for winning Best Short Film, **Sean Ellis** will receive 1500 ft. of Kodak film stock.

The Short Film Competition Jury featured *The Onion* film critic Keith Phipps, *Ain't It Cool News* Mid-West Editor Steven Prokopy and Block Cinema Film Programmer Will Schmenner.

CHICAGO AWARD

Of the 4 feature films and 8 short films presented as part of this year's Festival, a jury selected Ligy J. Pullapally's **The Journey / Sancharam** as the best local film and bestow upon it the annual **Chicago Award**.

The Chicago Award jury also wishes to bestow a special recognition Yamei Scheda, actress in the short film **Mindy**.

TERRA NOVA SILVER IMAGES GENERATIONS AWARD

The **Terra Nova Silver Images Generations Award** goes to **South of the Clouds / Yun de nan fang** (China), directed by Zhu Wen.

A new addition to the Chicago International Film Festival, the Terra Nova Silver Images Generations Competition recognizes films that portray realistic and multi-dimensional images about older adulthood. As winner of the first annual Silver Images Generations Award, Zhu Wen will receive a \$5,000 cash prize, courtesy of Terra Nova Films.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

The Audience Choice Award, sponsored by Motorola, will be announced immediately after the completion of the Festival on October 21.

TRIBUTES

On July 17, 2004, **Robin Williams** received a **Career Achievement Award** at the Festival's Summer Gala to kick-off the Chicago International Film Festival season.

On October 8, 2004, **Annette Bening** received a Career Achievement Award preceding the screening of **Being Julia**.

On October 16, 2004, **Irma P. Hall**, **Robert Townsend** and **Harry J. Lennix** each received a **Career Achievement Award** as part of this year's Black Perspectives "Homecoming Celebration."

On October 21, 2004 director **Robert Zemeckis** will receive a Career Achievement Award preceding the screening of **The Polar Express** at the Grand Finale of the 2004 Festival.