

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2015 AWARD WINNERS

TORONTO — The Toronto International Film Festival® today announced award winners from the 40th Festival, which wraps up this evening.

The short film awards below were selected by a jury comprised of the head of the shorts program and creations unit at Canal+ France, Pascale Faure, film writer John Anderson (*The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*), and actor Rizwan Manji (*Outsourced*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*).

SHORTS CUTS AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN SHORT FILM

The Shorts Cuts Award for Best Canadian Short Film goes to **Patrice Laliberté** for *Overpass*. The jury remarked, "For its seductive, elliptical and graceful manner of exploring the nature of grief and the unconventional ways that families react to loss, all of which was elevated by the performance of Téo Vachon Sincennes." The award offers a \$10,000 cash prize.

The jury gave an honourable mention to Sol Friedman's *Bacon & God's Wrath*, "For its whimsical and wry examination of religious conviction and intellectual conversion, and the acknowledgment that courage and transformation can be achieved at any age and involve any manner of pork by-product."

SHORT CUTS AWARD FOR BEST SHORT FILM

The Short Cuts Award for Best Short Film goes to **Maïmouna Doucouré's Maman(s)**. The jury remarked, "For its daring and revelatory exploration of a family's dysfunction and upheaval through the eyes of a child and its refusal to cast characters as villains but rather as complex, and highly conflicted, human beings the jury selects *Maman(s)*. The jury also wanted to acknowledge the vulnerable, defiant performance of the gifted Sokhna Diallo." The award offers a \$10,000 cash prize.

The jury gave an honourable mention to Fyzal Boulifa's *Rate Me*, "For its blithely unconventional approach to new media and new mores, and a sense of humour as wry as it was rude."

The Canadian awards below were selected by a jury comprised of filmmaker Don McKellar (*The Grand Seduction*), Jacqueline Lyanga (Director of AFI Fest), and Ilda Santiago (Programming and Executive Director of Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival).

CITY OF TORONTO AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN FIRST FEATURE FILM

The City of Toronto Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film goes to for **Andrew Cividino's *Sleeping Giant***. The jury remarked, "For its sophisticated plotting, indelible characters and insightful critique of masculinity through a fateful rite of passage on the north shore of Lake Superior, the jury selects *Sleeping Giant*." This award carries a cash prize of \$15,000, made possible by the City of Toronto.

CANADA GOOSE AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN FEATURE FILM

The Canada Goose Award for Best Canadian Feature Film goes to **Stephen Dunn's *Closet Monster***. The jury remarked, "For its confidence and invention in tackling the pain and yearning of the first love and coming of age of a young gay man in Newfoundland, the jury recognizes the remarkable artistry and vision of first-time feature director Stephen Dunn for *Closet Monster*." This award carries a cash prize of \$30,000 and a custom award, sponsored by Canada Goose.

The jury gave an honourable mention to Philippe Falardeau's *My Internship in Canada*, "For its dexterous intelligence and cinematic wit."

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world, through film.

THE PRIZES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FILM CRITICS (FIPRESCI PRIZES)

The Festival welcomed an international FIPRESCI jury for the 24th year. The jury members composed of jury president Engin Ertan (Turkey), Chris Alexander (Canada), Francisco Ferreira (Portugal), Kerstin Gezelius (Sweden), Pierre Pageau (Canada), and Alissa Simon (USA).

Prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) for the **Discovery** programme is awarded to **Marko Škop** for ***Eva Nová***. The jury remarked, "For exploring themes of humanity, dignity, addiction and redemption in a naturalistic, deceptively simple and non-exploitative manner, FIPRESCI is pleased to present the prize in the Discovery programme to Marko Škop's haunting debut feature *Eva Nová*."

Prize of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) for **Special Presentations** is awarded to **Jonás Cuarón's *Desierto***. The jury remarked, "For using pure cinema to create a strong physical sensation of being trapped in a vast space and hunted down by hatred in its most primal form, FIPRESCI presents the prize in the Special Presentations programme to *Desierto* by Jonás Cuarón."

NETPAC AWARD

As selected by a jury from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema for the 4th consecutive year, the **NETPAC Award for World or International Asian Film Premiere** goes to **Sion Sono** for ***The Whispering Star***. Jury members include jury chairperson Anne Misawa (USA), Heather Keung (Canada), and Nashen Moodley (Australia). The jury remarked, "For its poetic, moving and brave attempt to express a grief that's inexpressible, combining all too real elements with lo-fi sci-fi, the NETPAC jury awards the prize to *The Whispering Star*."

TORONTO PLATFORM PRIZE

This is the inaugural year for **Platform**, the Festival's new juried programme that champions director's cinema from around the world. The Festival welcomed an international jury composed of acclaimed filmmakers Jia Zhang-ke, Claire Denis and Agnieszka Holland, who awarded the first ever **Toronto Platform Prize** to **Alan Zweig** for ***HURT***. The jury remarked, "Following a long discussion, the jury has chosen unanimously to give the Platform prize to *HURT*. It is a film that explores the complexity and fragility of human destiny in a country that much of the world sees as a paradise." The award offers a \$25,000 cash prize and a custom award.

The jury gave honourable mentions to Gabriel Mascaro's *Neon Bull*, He Ping's *The Promised Land*, and Pablo Trapero's *The Clan*.

GROLSCH PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

This year marked the 38th year that Toronto audiences were able to cast a ballot for their favourite Festival film for the **Grolsch People's Choice Award**. This year's award goes to **Lenny Abrahamson** for ***Room***. Told through the eyes of five-year-old-Jack, *Room* is a thrilling and emotional tale that celebrates the resilience and power of the human spirit. To Jack, the Room is the world... it's where he was born, where he and his Ma eat and sleep and play and learn. But while it's home to Jack, to Ma it's a prison. Through her fierce love for her son, Ma has managed to create a childhood for him in their 10-by-10-foot space. But as Jack's curiosity is building alongside Ma's own desperation — she knows that Room cannot contain either indefinitely. The award offers a \$15,000 cash prize and custom award, sponsored by Grolsch. The second runner up is **Tom McCarthy's *Spotlight***. The first runner up is **Pan Nalin's *Angry Indian Goddesses***.

The Festival presents a **free screening** of the award-winning film *Room* tonight. The screening takes place at 8 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall.

The **Grolsch People's Choice Midnight Madness Award** goes to **Ilya Naishuller** for ***Hardcore***. Resurrected with no recollection of his past, a cyborg named Henry and his ally Jimmy must fight through the streets of Moscow in pursuit of Henry's kidnapped wife, in the world's first action-adventure film to be entirely shot from the first person perspective. The second runner up is **Jeremy Saulnier** for ***Green Room***. The first runner up is **Todd Strauss-Schulson** for ***The Final Girls***.

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world, through film.



The **Grosch People's Choice Documentary Award** goes to **Evgeny Afineevsky** for ***Winter on Fire: Ukraine's Fight For Freedom***. Chronicling events that unfolded over 93 days in 2013 and 2014, the film witnesses the formation of a new civil rights movement in Ukraine. What started as peaceful student demonstrations supporting European integration morphed into a full-fledged violent revolution calling for the resignation of the nation's president. The second runner up is **Brian D. Johnson's *AI Purdy Was Here***. The first runner up is **Avi Lewis's *This Changes Everything***.

DROPBOX DISCOVERY PROGRAMME FILMMAKERS AWARD

Earlier in the Festival, the winner of the Dropbox Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award was announced. The award went to **Adil El Arbi** and **Bilal Fallah** whose film, ***Black***, was presented as part of the Discovery programme. The award carries a \$5,000 cash prize along with free Dropbox for Business accounts.

Social Media:

@TIFF_NET

#TIFF15

Facebook.com/TIFF

About TIFF

TIFF is a charitable cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world, through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit tiff.net.

The City of Toronto is the supporter of the Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film.

Canada Goose is the sponsor of the Award for Best Canadian Feature Film.

Grosch Premium Lager is the sponsor of the People's Choice Awards.

Dropbox is the sponsor of the Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award.

-30-

For information, contact the Communications Department at 416.934.3200 or email proffice@tiff.net.

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world, through film.