

AWARDS :: RIDM 2011

Montreal, Sunday, November 20, 2011 – The **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** comes to a end today after nearly 200 screenings, events and activities. The award winners for the 14th edition were announced last night at the closing ceremony, held at the Grande Bibliothèque.

BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM

Presented by Vox, the award for best international short film went to ***Flying Anne*** (*Anne Vliegt*) by director Catherine Van Campen. According to the jury, *Flying Anne* is a film of captivating lyrical beauty that delivers a thoroughly satisfying narrative that the audience discovers as Anne manages to explain to the other children why she's different, so that they will consider her normal.

BEST INTERNATIONAL MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM

Presented by Films Transit, the award for best international medium-length film went to ***Hula and Natan*** by Robby Elmaliah. Does anyone expect comedy when bombs are falling all around? That is what we get with *Hula et Natan*, a fine film that, against all expectations, presents the charming, funny portrait of two brothers, by turns mechanics and philosophers, who are getting by in Sderot, a village near Gaza.

The jury also awarded a special mention to *Out of Reach* by director Jakub Stozek, for its strong narrative and creative use of sound in its portrayal of a painfully distant person. A courageous film that remains respectful of its subjects, two Polish sisters looking for the woman who was once their mother.

The international short and medium-length jury was composed of Danny Lennon, Halima Ouardiri and David Wilson.

CINÉMATHÈQUE QUÉBÉCOISE – CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD

In association with the AQCC, the Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma, this award went to ***Les Etats-Unis d'Afrique*** by Yanick Létourneau, a sincere, generous documentary that takes a political stand while maintaining a sense of openness to the world. The jury also gave a special mention to ***Wiebo's War*** (*La guerre de Wiebo*) by David York, in recognition of the maturity evident in the filmmaker's first film, a complex and fascinating work. All Canadian and Quebec films, of all lengths, were eligible for this award.

The Critics' Jury was composed of Ismaël Houdassine, Miquel Martí Freixas and Daniel Racine.

BEST NEW TALENT FROM QUEBEC/CANADA

Presented by the National Film Board of Canada, the award for best new talent from Quebec/Canada was presented to Xun Yu for ***The Vanishing Spring Light***. With integrity, respect and empathy, the director did much more than film the world of a Chinatown, but captured the theatricality of the human condition.

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST CANADIAN FEATURE

Presented by Bell, the grand prize for Best Canadian Feature was presented to Catherine Hébert for ***Carnets d'un grand détour***, for the filmmaker's profoundly sensitive cinematic approach and point of view.

The Quebec/Canada feature competition jury was composed of Anaïs Clanet, Helene Klodawsky and Javier Packer Comyn.

WOMEN INMATES AWARD

Composed of five inmates from the Joliette Institution – Mélanie, Danielle, Despina, Christine and Ginette – the inmates' jury selected a film from among the eight they were shown: ***The Tiniest Place*** (*El lugar más pequeño*) by Tatiana Huevo, for its ability to transport them with its breathtaking images, and for the courage and determination of the residents of a village caught in the middle of a civil war, struggling valiantly for their survival.

BEST EDITING IN AN INTERNATIONAL FEATURE

Presented by the Alliance québécoise des techniciens de l'image et du son (AQTIS), the award for editing went to ***Territoire Perdu*** by Pierre-Yves Vandeweerd, for its intense pacing and beautiful, atmospheric sound design. The jury praised the exceptional work of editor Philippe Boucq and sound designer Alain Cabaux.

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY IN AN INTERNATIONAL FEATURE

Presented by Antoine Laoun Opticien, the cinematography award was presented to Natalia Almada for her film ***El Velador***, for her incisive instincts and impeccable attention to detail. With her clear authorial vision, Almada's cinematography is a fine example of the way in which images can transcend the screen.

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE

The grand prize for Best International Feature went to ***Territoire Perdu*** by Pierre-Yves Vandeweerd, for its fascinating, lyrical meditation on the past and present of the Sahrawi, a nomadic people from the western Sahara. Vandeweerd has created a profound, mysterious, resonant film that made a powerful impression on the jury.

A special mention went to ***The Tiniest Place*** by Tatiana Huezo.

The international feature competition jury was composed of Ruth Beckermann, Mathieu Bouchard-Malo, Sylvaine Dufaux, Robert Koehler and Alessandro Raja.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Presented by Canal D, the People's Choice award went to ***Bouton***, by director Res Balzli. Festival audiences were charmed by this poignant, delightful film about a lifelike puppet and his creator, who is battling a serious form of cancer. *Bouton* will be screened again today, Sunday, at 5:30 p.m. at the Grande Bibliothèque (475 de Maisonneuve East).

The RIDM congratulates the winners and thanks all the filmmakers and everyone else who participated in this 14th edition. See you next year!

*Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the **Montreal International Documentary Festival** presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents alike. Plus, with the aim of extending its reach beyond Montreal, RIDM will present selected documentaries in Quebec City from November 26 to December 2, in collaboration with Cinéma Cartier.*

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