



Reykjavík
International
Film
Festival
17 — 27 september
2009

RIFF 2009 Awards

Festival has most successful year to date
with admissions in excess of 22,000

THE GOLDEN PUFFIN

Discovery Award

Canadian director Xavier Dolan's startling debut film **I KILLED MY MOTHER** (J'ai Tué Ma Mère) which chronicles the stormy relationship between a teenage boy and his mother. This film also won the Prix Regards Jeunes at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

Jury Statement

“We chose this film not only because we were impressed by the main characters who are so expressive, never full of self-pity and who remain truthful all at the same time. The director is able to see his story in the wider context of human existence.

We like not only the story but the way the story is told: in a distant, reflected, witty way. The film shows a deep insight into the complexity of the relationship between mother and son. The ending shows a precise and warm reflection and knowledge about this turbulent love hate relationship.

Last but not least, we want to point out the fact that this young filmmaker makes us curious to follow his next films and see how he will continue to develop his film language and storytelling.”

The prize was presented by the Mayor of Reykjavik, Mrs. Hanna Birna Kristjansdottir, in the Grand Room of Reykjavik City Hall.

First and second films are eligible.

The jury was led by acclaimed Danish actress Iben Hjejle and included Austrian director Jessica Hausner; Icelandic actress Eva Osk Olafsdottir;

Sochi Film Festival director, Sitora Alieva and Icelandic editor Elisabet Ronaldsdottir.

FIPRESCI AWARD

Awarded by International Federation of Film Critics

Swedish director Fredrik Ekdfelt's first feature **THE GIRL** (Flickan) which tells the story of a 10-year old girl who, left alone, creates her own reality.

Films from the New Visions program are eligible.

On the jury are Lawrence Boyle (UK), Tadeusz Szczepanski and Nanna Frank Rasmussen (Denmark)

THE CHURCH OF ICELAND AWARD

Norwegian director Matias Armand Jordal's **TOGETHER** (Sammen) which tells the story a shattered family's fight to re-establish their bonds.

The Church of Iceland film award is presented for the fourth time this year to an outstanding film that deals with important existential questions.

Jury Statement

Father and son react differently to a tragic loss. *Together* invites the viewer on a journey through barren landscapes of sorrow. It illustrates healthy and unhealthy reactions to a tragedy and shows convincingly how the daily tasks of life can overwhelm the bereaved.

Together is a story about guilt and despair. It tells us that love can keep us alive when everything else has fallen apart. Three embraces mark the way from sorrow to acceptance, from despair to hope. *Together* is a realistic and hopeful film that reminds us that the smallest touch can do wonders.

First and second films are eligible.

On the jury are Sr. Arni Svanur Danielsson, Sr. and Gudrun Karlsdottir.

RIFF AUDIENCE AWARD

Most Popular Film Award

Sponsored by Icelandic Express

Icelandic director Janus Bragi Jakobsson's short film **THE GENTLEMEN** (Herramenn) which is a tale of male bonding, aided by copious amounts of alcohol.

Presented by Matthias Imsland, CEO OF Iceland Express.

RIFF audience choose their favourite film on the Festival's website, www.riff.is

THE ICELANDIC RED CROSS AWARD

Human Rights Award

French directors JeanMarc Sainclair and Jean Crousillac's **UMOJA: WHERE MEN ARE FORBIDDEN** which tells the story of a Kenyan village women's fight for their rights without any men.

On the jury are Otto Tynes, Mria Agustsdottir and Birna Halldorsdottir.

RIFF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

UK/ TOGO director Brice Lainé's **THE DANCING FOREST** which tells the story of Baga, an African village's remarkable journey to self reliance through harmony with nature.

Through its fine and original treatment of important issues that affect the economics and ecological realities of Africa, Brice Lainé skillfully portrays the realities and aspirations of people in a small African community who refuse to wait for outside aid, choosing to use both their traditions and modern agricultural knowledge in an attempt to fight the poverty and isolation surrounding them. The film is a strong and honest statement of people working to better their lives based on their ingrained In recognition of its fine and original treatment of important issues that affect the economics and ecological realities of Africa, The RIFF awards its first ecological award to Brice Laine for his film THE DANCING FOREST. The director has skillfully portrayed in his film the realities and aspirations of people in a small African community who refuse to wait for outside aid choosing to dynamically

combine tradition and modern agricultural knowledge, in their serious attempt to fight poverty and isolation. The film becomes a strong and honest statement of people working to better their lives in harmony with traditions and through environmental concern for nature, based on love for Man and the Land, respect for people and the land.

Films from the World Changes program are eligible.

RIFF GOLDEN EGG

International Talent Lab Award

Country director's short film BBBBBB which tells the story of

On the jury Helga Rakel Rafnsdottir is chairman along with executive member Thorgnyr Thoroddsen.

RIFF ANNOUNCES **ATTENDANCE FIGURES AND 2010 DATES**

RIFF released their attendance figures to date (festival runs until Sunday), the highest ever which have surpassed 22,000 admissions.

Dates for the 2010 RIFF are September 23 – October 3, 2010.

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