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Press Release

Imaginations Run Wild as Winners Celebrate the 23rd Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival

Chicago, IL Oct 30, 2006 The monstrously successful 23rd Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival celebrated as over 30 awards were presented at the CICFF's American Airlines Closing Night Awards Presentation, Sunday, October 29, 2006 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago. Radio/TV personality Shadoe Stevens, best known as the voice of the Grammy and Emmy



Awards, hosted this gala event and helped award prizes as hundreds of movie lovers and filmmakers gathered to celebrate the most popular films of the festival.

Chicago audiences casting their vote for their favorite flick this year awarded the Best of the Fest award to director Pieter Kuijpers for *The Horror Bus* (Netherlands, 2005). This adventurous story about young love and ambition teaches children to be careful what they wish for. The most anticipated awards of the night are those which qualify the winners to enter the Short Films category for the *Academy Awards*®. The winners of the Adult Jury Live-Action Short Film or Video category were Tove Cecilie Sverdrup and Sunniva Nervik for *The Crystal Palace* (Norway, 2006), a movie about 8 year-old Elvind who, after losing his beloved grandmother meets Edith at a retirement home. Elvind dares to ask Edith difficult questions about life and learns much from her answers. Winner of the Adult Jury Animated Short Film went to Lotte Geffenblad and Uzi Geffenblad for their film, *Among the Thorns* (Sweden, 2005). A vibrant and innovative animation in clay, this short presents a story of young Franz, who embarks on a journey to realize his dreams of playing in an orchestra.

Other prominent festival winners and awards include: The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize of \$2500 for Best Film or Video by an Emerging Director, awarded to Adam Schlachter for My Backyard Was a Mountain (USA, 2005); the Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize of \$2500 for the Best Child-Produced Film or Video was awarded to eleven-year-old Joseph Procopio for Drive (Canada, 2006). The prestigious Liv Ullmann Peace Prize went to Avie Luthra for his heartwarming film, Lucky (South Africa, 2005); the Rights of the Child Award, awarded to Ali Benhirame for Amal (France, Morocco, 2005), the story of a girl desperate to attend school. The Adult Jury Prize for Best Live-Action Feature Film or Video went to Josef Fares for his film, Zozo (Sweden, 2005). This powerful, partly autobiographical film, shows a young Lebanese boy surrounded by chaos in the late 1980s, who migrates to Sweden from his war-torn home of

Beirut. When confronted once again with violence he chooses to fight with his brains rather than fists.

2006 Awards List

The 2006 CICFF Best of Fest Award

Pieter Kuijpers, *The Horror Bus* (Netherlands, 2005)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize Best Film or Video by an Emerging Director

Adam Schlachter, My Backyard Was a Mountain (USA, 2005)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize

Certificate of Excellence for Best Film or Video by an Emerging Director

Kyle Jefferson and Cameron Hood, First Flight (USA, 2006)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize

Best Child-Produced Film or Video

Joseph Procopio, Drive (Canada, 2006)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize

Certificate of Excellence for Best Child-Produced Film or Video

Stefanos Sitaras, Esperando (Greece, 2005)

The Liv Ullmann Peace Prize

Avie Luthra, Lucky (South Africa, 2005)

The Rights of the Child Award

Ali Benhirame, Amal (France/Morocco, 2005)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZES

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION FEATURE FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Niels Arden Oplev, We Shall Overcome (Denmark, 2005)

2nd Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Mischa Kamp, Winky's Horse (Netherlands, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Josef Fares, Zozo (Sweden, 2005)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - ANIMATED FEATURE FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Animated Feature Film or Video

Michel Ocelot and Benedicte Galup, Kirikou and the Wild Beasts (France, 2005)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Nils Mooij, Fried Rice (Netherlands, 2004)

2nd Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Renaka Jeyapalan, Big Girl (Canada, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Short Film or Video

Irina Bolko, The Thief (Greece, 2005)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - ANIMATED SHORT FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

Chris Mais, Smile (USA, 2005)

2nd Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

Till Nowak, *Delivery* (Germany, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Animated Short Film or Video

Jonathan Ng and Madeleine Belisle, Asthma Tech (Canada, 2006)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - ANIMATED TELEVISION PRODUCTION

1st Prize, Animated Television Production

South African Broadcast Corporation

Director: Firdaus Kharas, Magic Cellar: "The Tortoise and the Elephant" (South Africa, 2004)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION TELEVISION PRODUCTION

1st Prize, Live-action Television Production

Andrej Maleszka, The Magic Tree: "Devourers of Books" (Poland, 2006)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZE - CHILD-PRODUCED SHORT FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Child-Produced Short Film or Video

Stephen Sotor and Trace Gaynor, The Final Frontier: Explorers or Warriors (USA, 2006)

2nd Prize, Child-Produced Short Film or Video

Joseph, Susan, and Katherine Procopio, Lost and Found (Canada, 2006)

ADULT JURY PRIZES

ADULT JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION FEATURE FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Josef Fares, Zozo (Sweden, 2005)

2nd Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Niels Arden Oplev, We Shall Overcome (Denmark, 2006)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Mischa Kamp, Winky's Horse (Netherlands, 2005)

ADULT JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION SHORT FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Tove Cecilie Sverdrup and Sunniva Nervik, The Crystal Palace (Norway, 2006)

2nd Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Devon Bolton and Kirsten Bolton, Shipwrecked (Canada, 2006)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Short Film or Video

Cristine Spindler, Sirah (USA, 2005)

ADULT JURY PRIZE - DOCUMENTARY FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Documentary Film or Video

Georg Bussek, Stark! Kevin Hear Me Out (Germany, 2005)

2nd Prize, Documentary Film or Video

Jannicke Systad Jacobsen, The Clown Children (Norway, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Documentary Film or Video

Meenakshi and Vinay Rai, Children of Nomads (India, 2005)

ADULT JURY PRIZE - LIVE-ACTION TELEVISION PROGRAM

1st Prize, Live-action Television Program

The Australian Children's Television Foundation and Enjoy Entertainment, Mortified: "The

Talk" (Australia, 2006) Director: Pino Amenta

2nd Prize, Live-action Television Program

Rafael Illescas, All For A Football: "In My Shoes" (Mexico, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Television Program

Johan Timmers, *Dobli* (Netherlands, 2006)

<u>ADULT JURY PRIZE - ANIMATED FEATURE FILM OR VIDEO</u>

1st Prize, Animated Feature Film or Video

Michel Ocelot and Benedicte Galup, Kirkou and the Wild Beasts (France, 2005)

ADULT JURY PRIZE - ANIMATED SHORT FILM OR VIDEO

1st Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

Lotte Geffenblad and Uzi Geffenblad, Among the Thorns (Sweden, 2005)

2nd Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

John Lechner and Gary Goldberger, Fablevision and Weston Woods, Ish (USA, 2005)

Certificate of Excellence, Animated Short Film or Video

Uruma Delvi, A Long day of Mr. Calpaccio (Japan, 2005)

ADULT JURY PRIZE -ANIMATED TELEVISION PRODUCTION

1st Prize, Animated Television Production

Josh Selig and Jennifer Oxley, The Wonder Pets: "Save The Sheep!" (USA, 2006)

2nd Prize, Animated Television Production

Cartoon Network Studios, Mike Roth and Clayton Morrow, Camp Lazlo: "Tree Hugger" (USA, 2005)

A complete list of awards and winners and descriptions of films is posted on-line at www.cicff.org. For additional information contact Marita Blanken at (773) 281-9075.

The Chicago International Children's Film Festival is presented by Facets Multi-Media, Inc., a not-for-profit film and video organization.

Facets Multi-Media, Inc.

Marita Blanken Press Coordinator

email: kidsfest@facets.org phone: 773-281-9075

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