



"CANNES FOR KIDS" CELEBRATES CLOSING NIGHT Kidsfest Kudos to Award Winning Filmmakers!

Chicago, IL November 3 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This year, the 25th Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival congratulates the winners of more than 30 awards presented at the CICFF's **American Airlines Closing Nights Awards Presentation** on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at Columbia College's Film Row Cinema. Jimmy Tsai, star of *Ping Pong Playa* was the first to congratulate these winners as host of the evening's celebration. Over 100 international filmmakers came to watch the most acclaimed films of the festival, eager to hear the responses of the 26,000 children who participated in this year's event.



Chicago audiences casting their votes for their favorite flicks this year awarded the **Best of the Fest** award to Ingelore König for *Stella and the Star of the Orient* (Germany, 2007), an adventure in which a young girl travels back in time to learn that family is forever. "This is absolutely thrilling for us. Winning a prize from the children's jury was already wonderful, but winning the Best of Fest prize will make an extraordinary difference in bringing the film to audiences worldwide," said Ms. König.

Best of the Fest Winner 2008:
Stella and the Star of the Orient

As always, the room fell silent as the audience held their breath to hear the winners of the prizes which would qualify live-action and animated short films for Academy Award consideration. The winner of the **Adult Jury Live-Action Short Film** or Video category was David Cooke for *The Morse Collectors* (UK, 2008), a sensitive and suspenseful film set in Ireland where two siblings receive messages from the spirits of children lost in the Holocaust.

Winner of the **Adult Jury Animated Short Film** went to Hsin-I Tseng for her unique and delightful stop-action and cut-out animated short, *Dear Fatty* (USA, 2008), the tale of a traveling hamster told through the voice and letters of a child who misses her pet. The **Adult Jury Live-Action Feature Film** or Video went to Bernd Neuburger for *Mozart in China* (Austria, 2007), where loyalty is tested, respect is earned, and shadow puppets are brought to life in an enchanting story that seamlessly brings together Chinese and Austrian culture and music.



Dear Fatty



Anne Halsey, Director of the Poetry Foundation's Media Program, announced the CICFF's **Poetry Foundation Award** winner, for which the recipient received a \$10,000 cash prize to the film that truly reflects the spirit of poetry in film for young audiences. This year's winners were filmmaker Alyssa Sherwood and Poet, Dorian Merina for *Migrations* (USA, 2007). "I treasure this moment and this award more than I can say. It's a tremendous honor for Dorian Merina and myself and I am deeply touched," said Ms. Sherwood accepting her award. The CICFF also announced the Poetry Foundation's continued support for this unique prize in 2009.



Other prominent festival winners and awards include: The **Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize** of \$2,500 for Best Film or Video by an Emerging Director, awarded to Cayman Grant for her short live-action film, *His Good Will* (Canada/USA 2008); the **Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize** of \$2,500 for Best Child-Produced Film or Video was given to Molly Nemer, TVbyGirls for *New Orleans* (USA, 2007).

His Good Will

The **Liv Ullmann Peace Prize** went to *Light Feet, A Raramuri Tale*, from Oskar Laffont (Mexico/UK 2008); the prestigious **Rights of the Child Award** went to Peter H. Reynolds for *Wings of EPOH* (USA, 2008).

For further information about the festival, prizes or to interview one of the prizewinners, please contact Patrick Ogle at (773) 281-9075 or email patrick@facets.org. A complete listing of the awards and prizewinners, as well as more information on the festival, click here: www.cicff.org

SPECIAL PRIZES

The 2008 Best of Fest Award
Ingelore König, Stella and the Star of the Orient (Germany, 2007)

The Poetry Foundation Poetry Prize
Filmmaker - Alyssa Sherwood, Poet - Dorian Merina, *Migrations* (USA, 2007)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize
Best Film or Video by an Emerging Director
Cayman Grant, *His Good Will* (Canada/USA, 2008)

The Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Prize
Best Child-Produced Film or Video
Molly Nemer, TVbyGIRLS, *New Orleans* (USA, 2007)

The Liv Ullmann Peace Prize
Oskar Laffont, *Light Feet, A Raramuri Tale* (Mexico/UK, 2008)

The Rights of the Child Award
Peter H. Reynolds, *Wings Of EPOH* (USA, 2008)

CHILDREN'S JURY PRIZES 2008

Children's Jury Prize - Live-action Feature Film or Video

1st Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Grethe Boe, The Ten Lives of Titanic the Cat (Norway, 2007)

2nd Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Ingelore König, Stella and the Star of the Orient (Germany, 2007)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Feature Film or Video

Samir Karnik, Nanhe Jaisalmer (India, 2007)

Children's Jury Prize - Live-action Short Film or Video

1st Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Martin de Thurah, We Who Stayed Behind (Denmark, 2008)

2nd Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video

Sally Pearce, Elephants (UK, 2008)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Short Film or Video

Matthias Daenschel, Funglasses (Germany, 2006)

Children's Jury Prize - Documentary Film or Video

1st Prize, Documentary Film or Video

Matthew Williams, Mr. Williams Returns To The South Bronx (USA, 2007)

2nd Prize, Documentary Film or Video

Weijun Chen, Please Vote For Me (China, 2007)

Children's Jury Prize - Animated Short Film or Video

1st Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

Merrin Marra, Plain And Simple (USA, 2007)

2nd Prize, Animated Short Film or Video

Brent Dawes, Because You're Gorgeous (South Africa, 2007)

Certificate of Excellence, Animated Short Film or Video

Janis Cimermanis, The Bear Is Coming (Latvia, 2008)

Children's Jury Prize - Animated Feature Film or Video

1st Prize, Animated Feature Film or Video

Pekka Lehtosaari, Quest For A Heart (Finland, 2007)

2nd Prize, Animated Feature Film or Video

David Rubín & Juan Carlos Pena, Spirit Of The Forest (Spain, 2008)

Children's Jury Prize - Child-Produced Short Film or Video

1st Prize, Child-Produced Short Film or Video

Drew Morton Goldsmith, Treasure Diversity (USA, 2007)

2nd Prize, Child-Produced Short Film or Video

Arjo Shrestho, Life Like Smoke (Bangladesh, 2007)

Certificate of Excellence, Child-Produced Short Film or Video
Istituto Comprensivo of Corigliano d'Otranto, Bullies! (Italy, 2007)

ADULT JURY PRIZES 2008

Adult Jury Prize - Live-action Feature Film or Video
1st Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video
Bernd Neuburger, Mozart in China(Austria, 2008)

2nd Prize, Live-action Feature Film or Video
Mischa Kamp, Where Is Winky's Horse(Netherlands, 2007)

Adult Jury Prize - Live-action Short Film or Video
1st Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video
David Cooke, The Morse Collectors (UK, 2008)

2nd Prize, Live-action Short Film or Video
Samir Guesmi, It's Sunday! (Algeria/France, 2008)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Short Film or Video
Laerke Drews, Laura - In Action (Denmark, 2008)

Adult Jury Prize - Documentary Film or Video
1st Prize, Documentary Film or Video
Weijun Chen, Please Vote For Me (China, 2007)

2nd Prize, Documentary Film or Video
Jenny Mackenzie, Kick Like A Girl (USA, 2008)

Adult Jury Prize - Live-action Television Program
1st Prize, Live-action Television Program
Martin Dohrn, Smalltalk Diaries: "Inventors" (UK, 2008)

2nd Prize, Live-action Television Program
Marika Väisänen, Home Away From Home (Finland, 2008)

Certificate of Excellence, Live-action Television Program
Will Hartman, Easy Pickins (USA, 2007)

Adult Jury Prize - Animated Short Film or Video
1st Prize, Animated Short Film or Video
Hsin-I Tseng, Dear Fatty (USA, 2008)

2nd Prize, Animated Short Film or Video
Evalds Lacis, The New Species(Latvia, 2008)

Certificate of Excellence, Animated Short Film or Video
Claude Cloutier, Sleeping Betty (Canada, 2007)

Adult Jury Prize -Animated Television Production

1st Prize, Animated Television Production

Maria Horvath, Hungarian Folk Tales: How I Passed My Childhood (Hungary, 2007)

2nd Prize, Animated Television Production

N.Y. SALAD Partners & Digital Media Lab., Inc., Vegetable Fairies: The Secret (Japan, 2007)

Certificate of Excellence, Animated Television Production

Yea-pyng Chen, Journey Through The Palace Museum-"Beauty Contest" (Taiwan, 2007)

Adult Jury Prize - Animated Documentary Film or Video

1st Prize, Animated Documentary Film or Video

Ken-Yu Chou, Michelle Hwang, Yun-Ling Lee, Si Yang Ng, Priscilla Tsang, Superhero Training Center: Cultural Awareness Day (USA, 2008)



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