

The 36th HKIFF Announces Nine Winners in Five Competitions

3 April 2012 (Hong Kong) – The 36th Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF) announced this year's winning films for the SIGNIS Awards, FIPRESCI Prize, and the Firebird Awards for Short Film Competition, Documentary Competition and Young Cinema Competition. The announcement took place at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. (Please refer to list of jurors) The winners of Documentary Competition Award and Young Cinema Competition will receive a camera kit sponsored by Nikon.

Co-organised with SIGNIS Hong Kong since 2004, the SIGNIS Awards recognise quality films that express social and humanitarian concerns as well as spiritual values. The SIGNIS Award this year went to *Monsieur Lazhar* by Philippe Falardeau. The jury's commented that "Avoiding sentimentality and using subtle humour this sensitive gem speaks to the heart" The film shows how cinema can be a powerful tool to enhance sensational experience. Both *I Wish* and *Declaration of War* received Special Mention of this Award. (please refer to the award list).

The FIPRESCI Prize has been presented since the 23rd HKIFF with the aim to promote young talent and artistic excellence in Asian filmmaking. The FIPRESCI prize was presented to *The Mirror Never Lies* by Kamila Andini. The Jury noted that s beemovie shows us a community's relationship with nature and the personal story of the search of a father that has disappeared. The impressive visual style combines the power of the ocean and the rites of the human beings, the every-day struggle of life and the coming-of-age-story of a young girl." (Please refer to the award list).

Supported by the Jockey Club Cine Academy (JCCA), the Short Film Competition this year received 500 entries from Asia, Europe and the Americas. Twenty finalists were selected and shown during the festival. this year the Film Festival has added The Special Prize (Hong Kong) for the local film. The Jury Prize was presented to *Everyone Says I Love You* by Cecile Ducrocq. The new Special Prize (Hong Kong) was conferred to *Acid* by Lam Suk-ching. Lam's work has been greatly recognized laying a foundation to local filmmakers and serving as a huge encouragement for them. The top award of Firebird Prize was made to *Muybridge's Strings* by Yamamura Koji. Jury members were very moved by its poetic style and its original structure. (please refer to the award list).

The Documentary Competition Award is made to documentary filmmakers who address social issues. The Firebird Award was made to *Jai Bhim Comrade* by Anand Patwardhan. The Jury recognized that "Its subject is compelling but easy to ignore. The film is morally powerful and dignifies the people whose world it reveals. It is lyrical, a musical, a compilation film and a wonderful piece of journalism." The Jury Prize went to *Back to the Square* by Petr Lom. The Jury commented that this was "A moving and brave film about a truly relevant topic. The film was made in unstable circumstances yet has a smooth rhythm

and is clear-sighted in showing us that the revolution in Egypt is far from over."(please refer to the award list).

The Young Cinema Competition aims to encourage young Asian filmmakers and to recognize their efforts. The Firebird Award for Young Cinema went to *Song of Silence* by Chen Zhuo. The jury commented that this was "A beautiful film with naturalistic acting and great cinematography. The jury looks forward to the director's future works as a dynamic new voice of Chinese cinema." The Jury Prize went to *The End of Puberty* by Kimura Shoko, which was highly praised for the director's "creativity with a dynamic point-of-view and unique and effective way of expression, and the film is is a clever and original depiction of sex and sexual relationship." (please refer to the award list).

Screenings of the following award-winning films are still available at the 36th HKIFF:

- *Muybridge's Strings* - 4 April, 10:30am, Science Museum
- *Everyone Says I Love You* - 4 April, 12:15pm, Science Museum
- *Jai Bhim Comrade* – 4 April, 2:45pm, Hong Kong Space Museum
- *Monsieur Lazhar* - 8 April, 3:00pm, Science Museum

Details of these screenings can be found at www.hkiff.org.hk

List of Awards

Young Cinema Competition	
Firebird Award	<i>Song of Silence</i>
Jury Prize	<i>The End of Puberty</i>
Documentary Competition	
Firebird Award	<i>Jai Bhim Comrade</i>
Jury Prize	<i>Back to the Squar</i>
Short Film Competition	
Firebird Award	<i>Muybridge's Strings</i>
Jury Prize	<i>Everyone Says I Love You</i>
Special Prize (Hong Kong)	<i>Acid</i>
FIPRESCI	
FIPRESCI Prize	<i>The Mirror Never Lies</i>
SIGNIS Award	
SIGNIS Award	<i>Monsieur Lazhar</i>
Special Mention	<i>I Wish</i> <i>Declaration of War</i>

List of Jurors

Young Cinema Competition

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society Limited
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Anderson Le, USA
LEE Yoon-ki, South Korea
LAW Kar, Hong Kong

Documentary

Mark Cousins, United Kingdom
Zhu Rikun, China
CHAN Ning, Hong Kong

FIREBIRD AWARDS

Short Film Competition

Michelle Carey, Australia
Yamashita Koyo, Japan
O Sing-pui, Hong Kong

FIPRESCI

Helmut Merker, Germany
Philip Cheah, Singapore
Lau Yam, Hong Kong

SIGNIS

Karel Deburchgrave, Belgium
Sikares Sirakan, Thailand
Catherine Wong, Hong Kong

About Hong Kong International Film Festival Society

The Hong Kong International Film Festival Society (HKIFFS) is a charitable, non-profit and non-governmental organization dedicated to the discovery and promotion of creativity in the art and culture of film.

Through its year-round programmes, the mission of the Society is to strengthen global appreciation of Chinese film culture and to promote inspiring films from around the world, enriching the cultural life of Hong Kong.

Committed to the development of a vibrant film culture in Hong Kong and Asia, the Society presents three annual flagship events in March and April: The Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) and the Asian Film Awards (AFA).

Passionately believing in the power of films to unite cultures and generations, the HKIFFS is devoted to giving thousands of film lovers around the region direct access to the world's most inspiring films all year round.

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