



*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 7:30PM PST / 9:30PM CST/ 10:30PM EST*****

SXSW ANNOUNCES WINNERS AT 2009 FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

Austin, Texas – March 17, 2009 – The jury and audience award-winners of the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Conference and Festival were announced tonight at the Festival's closing Awards Ceremony hosted by comedian Jimmy Roulette in Austin, Texas. Films receiving jury awards were selected from the Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature categories. Films in these categories, as well as the Emerging Visions, 24 Beats Per Second and Lone Star States categories were also eligible for the 2009 SXSW Film Festival Audience Awards. 24 Beats Per Second and Lone Star States Audience Awards will be announced separately on Friday, March 20.

SXSW also announced the jury prizes in shorts filmmaking, and special jury awards SXSW & AIGA Movie Poster Award, the SXSW Chicken and EGG Emergent Narrative Woman Director Award and the SXSW Wholphin Short Film Award. Details can be found at the official Festival website www.sxsw.com/film, as well as highlights from the Awards Ceremony at www.youtube.com/sxsw starting Friday, March 20.

“Going into the festival, we knew we had a strong lineup to be proud of, filled with some of the smartest and most talented filmmakers working at the studio level down to the tiniest of micro budgets,” said Film Conference and Festival Producer Janet Pierson, “but audiences, industry and press are all saying this is their favorite batch of movies in years. It’s great to feel the overwhelming embrace of the SXSW attendees who love what they’re watching, and even better, seeing our filmmakers enjoying each other’s work! The creative interchange is not just rhetoric, here at SXSW, it’s at the heart.”

The 2009 SXSW Film Festival Juries consisted of:

Narrative Feature Competition: Scott Foundas, Ted Hope, Kim Voynar; **Documentary Feature Competition:** Anne Thompson, Basil Tsiokos, Lois Vossen; **Reel Shorts:** Emma Gray Munthe, Dan Nuxoll, Caspar Sonnen; **Experimental Shorts:** Spencer Parsons, Luke Savisky, Sean Williams; **Animated Shorts:** Chris Eska, Steve Mack, Lars Nilsen; **Music Videos:** Stefan Arni, Siggie Kinski, Francis Preve, Adam Yauch; **Texas High School Shorts:** Bob Ray, Garret Savage, Bart Weiss.

For the 2009 SXSW Film Festival, 133 feature-length films were selected including 57 world premieres, selected 1,511 feature-length film submissions composed of 1,220 U.S. and 291 international feature-length films. The 2009 SXSW Film Festival Awards was hosted by Film in North Carolina. Film in North Carolina is a partnership between Creative Commerce Commission of Asheville NC, North Carolina Film Office and the Piedmont Triad Film Commission.

The 2009 SXSW Film Festival Award Winners:

Feature Jury Awards

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Winner – *45365*

Director: Bill Ross

An inquiring look at everyday life in Middle America, the film explores the congruities of daily life in an American town Sidney, Ohio.

Honorable Mention – *The Way We Get By*

Director: Aron Gaudet

On call 24/7 for the past 6 years, a group of senior citizens transform their lives by greeting nearly one million U.S. troops at a tiny airport in Maine.

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Winner – *Made in China*

Director: Judi Krant

Lost in Shanghai, an inventor discovers that it takes more than a bright idea to succeed.

Special Jury Award for Best Ensemble Cast – *That Evening Sun*

Director: Scott Teems

A ruthless grudge match between two old foes. Lines are drawn, threats are made, and the simmering tension under the Tennessee sun erupts, inevitably, into savagery. Cast: Hal Holbrook, Mia Wasikowska, Ray McKinnon, Walton Goggins, Carrie Preston

Audience Awards

EMERGING VISIONS

Winner – *Motherland*

Director: Jennifer Steinman

Six grieving mothers journey to Africa in order to test the theory that “giving is healing.”

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Winner – *MINE*

Director: Geralyn Pezanoski

After Hurricane Katrina, thousands of pets were rescued and adopted by families around the country, leading to many custody battles. Through these stories, the film examines issues of race, class and animal welfare in the U.S.

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Winner – *That Evening Sun*

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A ruthless grudge match between two old foes. Lines are drawn, threats are made, and the simmering tension under the Tennessee sun erupts, inevitably, into savagery.

24 BEATS PER SECOND

Winner – *Iron Maiden: Flight 666*

Director: Scot McFadyen and Sam Dunn

A rare behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's most influential bands as they fly 50,000 miles around the globe in their customized Boeing 757, "Ed Force One" (piloted by singer Bruce Dickinson), on their 2008 world tour.

LONE STAR STATES

Winner – *Over the Hills and Far Away*

Director: Michel Orion Scott

This documentary chronicles the journey of the Isaacson family as they travel through Mongolia in search of a mysterious shaman they believe can heal their autistic son.

Special Jury Awards

SXSW & AIGA AUSTIN MOVIE POSTER AWARD

2009 Award for Excellence in Movie Poster Design Special Judges' Award - *Snake*

Director: Becky James

Designer: Becky James & Lydia Corkin

2009 Award for Excellence in Movie Poster Design Runner-up – *Objectified*

Director: Gary Hustwit

Designer: Michael C. Place, Build

Best in Show – *The Dungeon Masters*

Director: Keven Macalester

Designer: David Plunkert, Spur Design, LLC

SXSW / CHICKEN & EGG EMERGENT WOMAN AWARD

Winner – *Made in China*

Director: Judi Krant

Lost in Shanghai, an inventor discovers that it takes more than a bright idea to succeed.

SXSW WHOLPHIN SHORT FILM AWARD

Winner – *Sister Wife*

Director: Jill Orschel

In a time when the practices of Mormon fundamentalism offer sensational fodder for the evening news, *Sister Wife* offers a rare glimpse into the cloistered lifestyle.

Shorts Jury Awards

REEL SHORTS

Winner – *Thompson*

Director: Jason Tippet

Since second grade Matt and Ryan have shared the bond of speech impediments, weapons, and things that go fast. But as their last days of high school speed by, the two friends find that their go-carts, dirt bikes, and RC cars can't outrun adulthood.

Special Jury Award – *Happy 95 Birthday Grandpa*

Director: Gary Huggins

A fleeting memory in five minutes.

ANIMATED SHORTS

Winner – *Shaman*

Director: Luc Perez

Waiting for the bus on a rainy day in Copenhagen, the old shaman Utaaq sees a rare bird from his past. This makes him reminisce his youth, and a beautiful tale about the forces of nature begins.

Special Jury Award – *Sweet Dreams*

Director: Kirsten Lepore

A Stalwart cupcake escapes from his native land to discover what lies beyond the sugar skyscrapers and candy-condos. His violent shipwreck on a foreign shore forces him to adapt to a new lifestyle.

EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS

Winner – *Cattle Call*

Director: Matthew Rankin & Mike Maryniuk

A high-speed animated documentary about the art of livestock auctioneering.

Special Jury Award – *The Idiot Stinks*

Director: Helder Sun

Animation, Angst, Media, Martians and Miscommunication.

MUSIC VIDEOS

Winner – Thunderheist, “Jerk It”

Director: That Go-Noel Paul & Stefan Moore

Special Jury Award – Fleet Foxes, “White Winter Hymnal”

Director: Sean Pecknold

Jury Special Mention – New Pornographers, “Myriad Harbor”

Director: Fluorescent Hill

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

Winner – *Performance Evaluation*

Director: Breannah Gibson

Special Jury Award – TIE

Fresh Fruit

Director: Edward Kelley & Brenden Cicoria

AND

A Hospital Bathroom

Director: Miguel Johnson

South By Southwest Film Conference & Festival

SXSW offers a uniquely creative space for filmmakers, film fans, and even cinephiles to partake in the big and small picture discussions about filmmaking today. The Conference hosts a five-day adventure in the latest filmmaking trends and new technology, featuring Conversations with film icons, intimate mini-meetings and one-on-one mentor sessions with industry veterans. The internationally-acclaimed, nine-day Festival boasts some of the most wide-ranging programming of any US event of its kind, from provocative documentaries to subversive Hollywood comedies, with a special focus on emerging talents. Learn more at sxsw.com/film.

2009 Festival Sponsors

SXSW Film Conference and Festival is sponsored by Miller Lite, Fuze Beverage, ZonePerfect, The Independent Film Channel (IFC), Sierra Mist and The Austin Chronicle.

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