London Critics pick La La Land as Film of the Year

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

***Moonlight*, *Manchester by the Sea* and *Love & Friendship* win two awards each, as Isabelle Huppert claims two top honours.**

By Rich Cline

The UKâ??s leading critics spread the love among a range of films at the 37th Criticsâ?? Circle Film Awards on Sunday night at The May Fair Hotel in London. Hosted by actor-filmmakers Alice Lowe and Steve Oram, the star-studded black-tie ceremony saw Damien Chazelleâ??s musical *La La Land* crowned Film of the Year, with top prizes going to films from Ireland, France, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Australia and the USA.

In a surprise move, Director of the Year was won by Hungarian filmmaker Laszlo Nemes for his Oscar-winning drama *Son of Saul*. Screenwriter went to Kenneth Lonergan for *Manchester by the Sea*, which also won Actor of the Year for Casey Affleck. *Moonlight* was presented with both supporting acting categories, for Naomie Harris and Mahershala Ali, who tied with *Love & Friendshipâ??s* Tom Bennett. Bennettâ??s costar Kate Beckinsale was on hand to claim the British/Irish Actress prize, while Andrew Garfield won British/Irish Actor for his performances in both *Hacksaw Ridge* and *Silence*.

Iconic French actress Isabelle Huppert also took home two awards. She was presented the prestigious Dilys Powell Award for Excellence in Film before going on to win in the Actress of the Year category for her performance in Mia Hansen-*Loveâ??s Things to Come*.

Maren Adeâ??s acclaimed *Toni Erdmann* added to its global accolades as it was named Foreign-Language Film of the Year, while Gianfranco Rosiâ??s *Fire at Sea* took the Documentary honours. And Ken Loachâ??s *I, Daniel Blake* won The Attenborough Award for British/Irish Film of the Year.
Other winners included *A Monster Calls*â?? 14-year-old star Lewis MacDougall, named Young British/Irish Performer of the Year, and writer-director Babak Anvari, who won The Philip French Award for Breakthrough British/Irish Filmmaker for his feature debut *Under the Shadow*. Cinematographer

Sturla Brandth Grovlen claimed the Technical Achievement Award for his bravura work on the one-take German thriller *Victoria*.

For the fifth year running, The May Fair Hotel hosted the event, with winners Beckinsale, Harris, Loach, Bennett, MacDougall and Anvari among an array of stars on the red carpet. Guests at the ceremony included George MacKay, Emma Greenwell, Morfydd Clark, Mica Levi, Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Sennia Nanua, Ben Cohen, Kristina Rihanoff and filmmakers John Carney, Otto Bell and Mia Hansen-Love.

The Criticsâ?? Circle Film Awards are sponsored by The May Fair Hotel and Suqqu, along with Millbank Casting & Management, Cooper Searle Personal Management, Audi, Remy Martin, Sacred, Voss, 31 Dover and Cameo Productions.

The full list of winners for the 37th London Criticsâ?? Circle Film Awards:

FILM OF THE YEAR
La La Land

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE FILM OF THE YEAR
Toni Erdmann

DOCUMENTARY OF THE YEAR
Fire at Sea

BRITISH/IRISH FILM OF THE YEAR
I, Daniel Blake

ACTOR OF THE YEAR presented by Millbank and Cooper Searle
Casey Affleck â?? *Manchester by the Sea*

ACTRESS OF THE YEAR presented by Suqqu
Isabelle Huppert â?? *Things to Come*

SUPPORTING ACTOR OF THE YEAR (tie)
Mahershala Ali â?? *Moonlight*
Tom Bennett â?? *Love & Friendship*

SUPPORTING ACTRESS OF THE YEAR presented by Cameo
Naomie Harris â?? *Moonlight*

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR
LÃ¡szlÃ³ Nemes â?? *Son of Saul*

SCREENWRITER OF THE YEAR
Kenneth Lonergan â?? *Manchester by the Sea*

BRITISH/IRISH ACTOR
Andrew Garfield â?? *Hacksaw Ridge, Silence*

BRITISH/IRISH ACTRESS
Kate Beckinsale â?? *Love & Friendship*

YOUNG BRITISH/IRISH PERFORMER presented by The May Fair Hotel
Lewis MacDougall â?? *A Monster Calls*

BREAKTHROUGH BRITISH/IRISH FILMMAKER
Babak Anvari â?? *Under the Shadow*

BRITISH/IRISH SHORT FILM
Sweet Maddie Stone â?? Brady Hood

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT
Victoria â?? Sturla Brandth Grovlen, cinematography

DILYS POWELL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FILM
Isabelle Huppert

(Source: criticscircle.org)

*Featured photo, left to right; Kate Beckinsale, Isabelle Huppert and Naomie Harris (Photo credit: Dave Bennett/Getty)

Category

1. Critics Choice
2. Venice International Film Festival

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