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28th Annual Heartland International Film Festival announces Filmmaker Award winners

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Bora Kimâ??s HOUSE OF THE HUMMINGBIRD
wins $15,000 Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature

Waad al-Kateab and Edward Wattsâ?? FOR SAMA wins twice,
taking $15,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature and the
Richard D. Propes Social Impact Documentary Award with an additional $2000

The Richard D. Propes Social Impact Narrative Feature Award (and $2000), which went to Flavio Alvesâ?? THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND.

Brett Fallentineâ??s FIRE ON THE HILL receives the Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award and $5000
and Matt Ratner doubles up with the Humor and Humanity Award and
FIPRESCIâ??s Best Directorial Debut for USA Narrative Film

Audience Choice Awards were led by Destin Daniel Crettonâ??s JUST MERCY,
winning both Special Presentation and Overall

Heartland International Film Festival 2019 award winners: Abo Anthony, John Rotondo (THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND), Matt Ratner (STANDNG UP, FALLING DOWN), Flavio Alves (THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND), Gordon Strain (THE MISEDUCATION OF BINDU), Ashton Gleckman (WE SHALL NOT DIE NOW), Brett Fallentine (FIRE ON THE HILL), Edward Watts (FOR SAMA), Seung Yun-Lee (HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD), Calvin Gray, William Bias, Ghuan Featherstone (FIRE ON THE HILL), Julie Sokolow (BAREFOOT: THE MARK BAUMER STORY) (Photo by Whitney Walker)

Indianapolis, IN (October 21, 2019) â?? The Heartland International Film Festival announced the filmmaker award winners for the film festivalâ??s 28th edition during an Awards Brunch held at The Montage (8580 Allison Pointe Blvd.) on Saturday, October 19. The Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature (and a cash prize of $15,000) went to Bora Kimâ??s HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD, with one of the filmâ??s stars, Seung-Yun Lee on hand to accept the award, with Waad al-Kateab and Edward Wattsâ?? FOR SAMA taking home two awards, including the $15,000 Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature, as well as the Richard D. Propes Social Impact Documentary Award and the $2000 that came with that award. Watts accepted the awards on behalf of the film. In addition to the Social Impact Documentary Award, Indiana film critic Richard D. Propes was on hand to also present the other award in his name, the Richard D. Propes Social Impact Narrative Feature Award (and $2000), which went to Flavio Alvesâ?? THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND. Each of the finalists in the ategories received a $1000 cash prize.

Jimmy Steward Legacy Award winners, left to right:

FIRE ON THE HILLSâ?? William Bias (Subject), Brett Fallentine (DIR), Calvin Gray (Subject), Ghuan Featherstone (Subject) (Photo by Whitney Walker)

Among the other awards, Brett Fallentineâ??s documentary about the horse riding community in South Central L.A., FIRE ON THE HILL received the film festivalâ??s Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award and $5000. Three of the filmâ??s subjects attended the ceremony with Fallentine, and as they accepted the award, one of the subjects, Ghuan Featherstone, said, â??This film is about perceptions and changing those perceptions. Here we are in the Midwest and our lives relate to you.â?•

Matt Ratner was the festivalâ??s other two-time winner, as his film, STANDING UP, FALLING DOWN received the festivalâ??s Humor and Humanity Award and $1000, and he received the FIPRESCI nod for Best Directorial Debut for USA Narrative Film. As he accepted his second award, Ratner, said, â??Places like Heartland are so meaningful. There is a space in a crowded marketplace for films about people struggling with their humanity.â?•

â??From South Central LA cowboys to South Korea, our award winners truly demonstrated the international scope of Heartland,â?• said Craig Prater, Heartland Film President, following the awards presentation.

HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD star Seung-Yun Lee (Photo by Whitney Walker)

â??This was a banner year for us programming-wise, as we were able to screen so many of our top choices from the film festival circuit, films that are in major consideration for the OscarsÂ® and top critics awards right now,â?• Greg Sorvig, Heartland Film Artistic Director, added. â??Audiences are filling our theaters because they have realized that the Heartland International Film Festival is quickly becoming a true awards tastemaker film festival. With that combined enthusiasm we enjoyed from both our film fans and our filmmakers, itâ??s great to then cap it by rewarding the wonderful films and filmmakers that won this year. They really deserved it.â?•

Earlier this year Heartland Film signed the 5050Ã?2020 Parity Pledge guaranteeing that at least half of its festival programming will be directed by women by its 2020 Indy Shorts and HIFF events. In total, 43% of this yearâ??s official selection lineup was were directed or co-directed by women and 63% of the overall $60,000 prize purse ($38,000) went to titles directed or co-directed by female filmmakers, led by Kimâ??s HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD and al-Kateab and Wattsâ?? FOR SAMA.

Best Premiere Documentary Award winner Julie Sokolow (BAREFOOT: THE MARK BAUMER STORY) (Photo by Whitney Walker)

HIFFâ??s Best Premiere Awards (along with the corresponding cash prizes of $2000) were presented to Julie Sokolowâ??s BAREFOOT: THE MARK BAUMER STORY (Best Premiere Documentary) and Nora Fingscheidtâ??s SYSTEMSPRENGER (SYSTEM CRASHER) (Best Premiere Narrative). The film festivalâ??s Best International Feature Film OscarÂ® Contender (which came with a $2000 cash prize) we LORY (Dolor y gloria).

THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND team (cast member Abo Anthony, director Flavio Alves, and Screenwriter John Rotondo, with Richard D. Propes (Photo by Whitney Walker)

In addition to the Social Impact Documentary Award, Indiana film critic Richard D. Propes was on hand to also present the other award in his name, the Richard D. Propes Social Impact Narrative Feature Award (and $2000), which went to Flavio Alvesâ?? THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND. The Indiana Spotlight Award (and $2000) went to Prarthana Mohanâ??s THE MISEDUCATION OF BINDU, with the Indiana Spotlight Audience Choice Award (and $1000) going to Ashton Gleckmanâ??s WE SHALL NOT DIE NOW.

Destin Daniel Crettonâ??s JUST MERCY received two Audience Choice Awards for both Special P nellâ??s FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES received the nod (a re, and Jacob Hamiltonâ??s JUMP SHOT received the nod (a ature. 19-year-old Ashton Gleckmanâ??s debut WE SHALL N ward (and $1000) in the Indiana Spotlight category.

Ashton Gleckman (Director, WE SHALL NOT DIE NOW)

(Photo by Whitney Walker)

Alex Holmesâ?? MAIDEN was the Audience Choice in the Awards Season Spotlight category, and Greeceâ??s Official Academy Award entry, WHEN TOMATOES MET WAGNER, directed by Marianna Economou got the nod in the Best International Feature Film OSCARâ?? Contenders section. Michael Herbigâ??s BALLOON won the Audience Choice Award for HIFFâ??s Cultural Journey: Germany sidebar.

The 28th edition of the Heartland International Film Festival, which wrapped up on October 20 with Crettonâ??s JUST MERCY and other screenings, was marked by buzz-worthy titles that the film festivalâ??s fans filled theater after theater to see. Gala titles like Marielle Hellerâ??s A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, Noah Baumbachâ??s MARRIAGE STORY, and Fernando Meirellesâ?? THE TWO POPES, along with screenings of hot ticket films like Bong Joon Hoâ??s PARASITE, Nadav Lapidâ??s SYNONYMS, Trey Edwards Shultsâ?? WAVES, Chinonye Chukwuâ??s CLEMENCY, and Taika Waititiâ??s JOJO RABBIT, among others, took HIFF to another level this year.

Among other highlights, Brendan Fraser returned to Indianapolis to receive not one, but two standing ovations both prior to, and after, a special 20th Anniversary screening of his box office smash hit, THE MUMMY. Life Achievement Award honoree Michael Apted received a warm reception at a screening of

his latest, 63 UP, and Dennis Christopher was welcomed enthusiastically at a 40th Anniversary screening of Peter Yatesâ?? beloved Indiana-based classic, BREAKING AWAY

The 2019 Heartland International Film Festival Award Winners:

Grand Prize for Best Narrative Feature â?? $15,000
HOUSE OF THE HUMMINGBIRD
Director: Bora Kim

Grand Prize for Best Documentary Feature â?? $15,000
FOR SAMA
Directors: Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts

Richard D. Propes Social Impact Award Narrative Feature â?? $2000
THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND
Director: Flavio Alves

Richard D. Propes Social Impact Award Documentary Feature â?? $2000
FOR SAMA
Directors: Waad al-Kateab, Edward Watts

The Jimmy Stewart Legacy Award Winner â?? $5000
FIRE ON THE HILL
Director: Brett Fallentine

Indiana Spotlight Award â?? $2000
THE MISEDUCATION OF BINDU
Director: Prarthana Mohan

Humor and Humanity Award â?? $1000
STANDING UP, FALLLING DOWN
Director: Matt Ratner

Best Premiere Award Documentary â?? $2000
BAREFOOT: THE MARK BAUMER STORY
Director: Julie Sokolow

Best Premiere Award Narrative â?? $2000
SYSTEMSPRENGER (SYSTEM CRASHER)
Director: Nora Fingscheidt

Best International Feature Film OscarÂ® Contender â?? $2000
PAIN AND GLORY (Dolor y Gloria)
Director: Pedro AlmodÃ³var

FIPRESCI Best Directorial Debut for USA Narrative Film (no cash prize)
STANDING UP, FALLING DOWN
Director: Matt Ratner

Overall Audience Choice Award Winner
JUST MERCY
Director: Destin Daniel Cretton

Audience Choice â?? Special Presentation
JUST MERCY
Director: Destin Daniel Cretton

Audience Choice â?? Narrative Feature ($1000 cash prize)
FEAST OF THE SEVEN FISHES
Director: Robert Tinnell

Audience Choice â?? Documentary Feature ($1000 cash prize)
JUMP SHOT
Director: Jacob Hamilton

Audience Choice â?? Indiana Spotlight ($1000 cash prize)
WE SHALL NOT DIE NOW
Director: Ashton Gleckman

Audience Choice â?? Awards Season Spotlight
MAIDEN
Director: Alex Holmes

Audience Choice â?? Best International Feature Film OSCARâ?? Contenders
WHEN TOMATOES MET WAGNER
Country: Greece
Director: Marianna Economou

Audience Choice â?? Cultural Journey: Germany
BALLOON
Director: Michael Herbig

About Heartland Film, Inc.
Heartland Film is a nonprofit arts organization founded in 1991 with the mission to inspire filmmakers and audiences through the transformative power of film. Heartland Film presents the annual Heartland International Film Festival, Academy AwardÂ®-qualifying Indy Shorts International Film Festival, the Heartland Film Roadshow, and bestows the Truly Moving Picture Award industry honor to major film releases throughout the year. For more information, visit heartlandfilm.org.

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Category

1. Heartland Film Festival

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