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La La Land at front of Oscar pack after win at Toronto

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Donald Clarke

Donâ??t get too upset. The six-month-long Oscar season will go to sleep for a spell after the Toronto International Film Festival tidies away the bunting. But the loudest of the opening trumpets is sounded with the Peopleâ??s Choice Award at that festival. There was a time when the gong had little bearing on the Oscars, but, over the last decade, it has pointed to certain success at the awards that matter. Twelve months ago, Lenny Abrahamsonâ??s Room began its march to glory â?? one big win for Brie Larson and nominations in best picture and director â?? with a triumph by Lake Ontario. Since 2008, only one film has won (Nadine Labakiâ??s Where do We Go Now) without receiving a nomination for best picture. Three of the Toronto winners in that time have converted into the Oscar itself.

It thus seemed likely that, rather than some leisurely outhouse puzzler, Damien Chazelleâ??s La La Land â?? a musical that has been Oscar favourite ever since opening Venice â?? would be the honoured picture. So, it has proved. The runners up were crowd-pleasers that, if nothing else, will figure in the conversation until nomination day in January: Mira Nairâ??s Queen of Katwe and Garth Davisâ??s Lion. (The Academy will be delighted that, after the #oscarssowhite embarrassment and the Birth of a Nation fiasco, both films focus on people of colour.) The many Ben Wheatley fans who were a bit disappointed by High Rise will be happy to hear that his thriller Free Fire won the Peopleâ??s Choice for Midnight Madness.

There were no triumphs for the Irish at this yearâ??s Toronto. But there have been decent reviews for Gerard Barrettâ??s Brain on Fire and Lorcan Finneganâ??s Without Name. The best notices among the domestic premieres seem to have been for John Butlerâ??s Handsome Devil. We now move on towards the Guild Awards in the winter with Awards appetite whetted (if thatâ??s what you like).

If youâ??re interested, I have a tenner on Lion to win best picture at 25/1. No, I havenâ??t seen the picture, but itâ??s already come in to 20/1. So, I feel like a genius.

AWARDS AT THE 2016 TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Peopleâ??s Choice Award: â??La La Land,â?• Damien Chazelle

Peopleâ??s Choice Award For Documentary: â??I Am Not Your Negro,â?• Raoul Peck

Peopleâ??s Choice Award For Midnight Madness: â??Free Fire,â?• Ben Wheatley

Platform Prize: â??Jackie,â?• Pablo Larrian

Platform Prize, Special Mention: â??Hema Hema: Sing Me a Song While I Wait,â?• Khyentse Norbu

Best Canadian Feature Film: â??Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves,â?• Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie

Best Canadian First Feature Film: â??Old Stone,â?• Johnny Ma

Prizes of the International Critics (FIPRESCI Prize) for Special Presentations Section: â??I Am Not Madame Bovary,â?• Feng Xiaogang

Prizes of the International Critics (FIPRESCI Prize) for Discovery Section: â??Kati Kati,â?• Mbithi Masya

Dropbox Discovery Programme Filmmakers Award: â??Jeffrey,â?• Yanillys Perez

NETPAC Award For World or International Asian Film Premiere: â??In Between,â?• Maysaloun Hamoud

Best Short Film: â??Imago,â?• Ribay Gutierrez

Best Canadian Short Film: â??Mutants,â?• Alexandre Dostie

(Source: http://www.irishtimes.com)

Category

1. #TIFF
2. Toronto International Film Festival

Tags

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Date Created
September 18, 2016
Author
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