



That's A Wrap: AFI FEST 2015

Description

AFI FEST Film Festival 2015 Wrap-up

by Larry Gleeson

Closing down this year's American Film Institute Festival on Thursday, it's hard not to imagine what might have been. The closing night film, *The Big Short*, drew an at-capacity crowd as Director Adam McKay took a few moments to introduce his star-studded cast. True to form, McKay bantered playfully with Ryan Gosling by saying how nice it was to finally meet him. Afterwards the audience was treated to a real big-screen viewing in the historic Hollywood TLC Grauman's Chinese Theater.

The night before *The Big Short*, gala goers were treated to a Tribute to Brits, Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay: <http://bit.ly/1RZTzqd> followed by a screening of Andrew Haigh's "[45 Years.](#)"

Award winners for this years AFI FEST include:

New Auteurs Grand Jury Award: LAND AND SHADE (Director César Augusto Acevedo) for its visual eloquence and its observations of environmental degradation and economic exploitation.

Special Jury Mention for Screenplay: DESDE ALLÁ (Director/writer Lorenzo Vigas) for its keen insights into the alienation, social divides and overriding need for control that allows love to flourish and die.

World Cinema Audience Award: LANDFILL HARMONIC (Directors Brad Allgood, Graham Townsley, Juliana Penaranda-Loftus)

New Auteurs Audience Award: MUSTANG (Director Deniz Gamze Ergüven)

American Independents Audience Award: JAMES WHITE (Director Josh Mond)

(Photo courtesy of AFI FEST 2015)

Other films I found interesting all came from the World Cinema category and included: [“Dheepan,”](#) a story of a Sri Lankan man who with an unknown woman and child, flees to France to start a new life. “Dheepan,” was directed by Jacques Audiard, known for his prison drama, “The Prophet,” and “Rust and Bone,” a melodrama; [“The Clan,”](#) an Argentinian film based on the real life events of the Puccio family during the early 1980’s is Argentina’s Official entry to The Academy’s Best Foreign Language Film category; and [“The Gulls,”](#) a cinematic treat from an otherwise barren region.

Until next time....I’ll see you at the movies!

Category

1. #AFIFEST

Tags

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