

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

Fribourg, March 28, 2015

Press Release

González by Christian Díaz Pardo wins the Regard d'or in Fribourg and Corn Island wins the Audience Award

González, by the Mexican filmmaker Christian Díaz Pardo, won the CHF 30'000 Regard d'or prize at the end of the 29th Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) closing ceremony on Saturday at 6 pm at the Rex 1 cinema. The Special Jury Award went to *Ata*, young Tibetan monk Chakme Rinpoche's first film. The International Jury also decided to give a special mention to the film *Flapping in the Middle of Nowhere* by Vietnamese director Diep Hoang Nguyen, who also won awards from the Ecumenical Jury and the Youth Jury. The International Short Film Jury gave an award to *Ants Apartment*, by the Iraqi filmmaker Tofigh Amani, and also gave a special mention to *Jila*, by the Iraqi director Karim Lakzadeh. *The Valley*, by Lebanese filmmaker Ghassan Salhab, received the FIPRESCI Jury Award. The IFFS Jury Award went to *Life May Be*, co-directed by Mania Akbari and Mark Cousins. The audience also chose its winner: *Corn Island* by the Georgian director George Ovashvili. A total of CHF 62'500 in prize money was awarded.

All the winners attended the festival and were able to collect their awards before enjoying the festive feel of the closing event along with their guests. Once again, the FIFF was honoured by the presence of esteemed guests who had come to support their work in person and meet audiences, such as Jean-Marc Barr and Jean-François Stévenin, or the actress Géraldine Chaplin. The Swiss film industry was represented by high-profile guests such as Ursula Meier and Bettina Oberli, members of the International Jury, and Edi Stöckli. With more than forty films and the presence of the director Ossama Mohammed, the homage to Syria was particularly popular with audiences who had come to see films that address this burning issue. Homage was also paid to indigenous North American film. The *Terra Incognita* section was presented by pioneering director Alanis Obomsawin along with fellow Native Americans Chris Eyre and Jesse Wente, and ran all week, including during school screenings. The section introduced festivalgoers and young cinemagoers to little-known films that are essential for understanding this people's history.

Just before FIFF's 30th anniversary, the festival has triumphed once again, reaching a record 40,000 entries.

González (Mexico, 2013) by Christian Díaz Pardo, recounts the story of a man who lives in a dilapidated room in Mexico City, unemployed and up to his ears in debt. As a last resort he accepts a job at the call centre of a neo-evangelical Free Church. He soon realises that unscrupulous methods are being used there to exploit the beliefs of the clients for financial gain. But instead of backing down or defending himself against the system, *González* comes up with a strategy. With its unusual theme, sophisticated narration and strong imagery, *González* is an outstanding example of young Mexican filmmaking. Therefore, it is even more surprising that the film disappeared from the festival circuit after its premiere in Morelia, Mexico in order to reappear in Montreal and Chicago one year later.

« *For a socially relevant script that mixes humor, surprises and provocation; for performances and cinematographic style that bring this script to life, we choose for the Regard d'or a complete and engaging film, González.* »

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

As successful as ever: the International Competition is in particularly high demand!

With its more than 40,000 film-lovers, the 29th Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) was able to continue its run of success and surpass its attendance record. The entire programme - the *Feature and Short Film International Competitions* as well as the *Parallel sections* - proved popular, with a more marked success for the *International Competition screenings*. The festival broke a record with more than 75 guests honouring the festival with their presence.

Closing film as Swiss Premiere

A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night (USA, 2014) by Iranian director Ana Lily Amirpour boasted its Swiss premiere following the Award Ceremony on Saturday, March 28.

The 30th FIFF will be held from **March 12–19, 2016**.

Festival Management

Thierry Jobin, Artistic Director

Esther Widmer, Administrative Director

The Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) press team

21 - 28.03.2015

Press Office

Esplanade de l'Ancienne-Gare 3

Case postale 550

CH - 1701 Fribourg

presse@fiff.ch

T. +41 (0)26 347 42 00

www.fiff.ch

Assistant

Charles Grandjean

presse@fiff.ch

T. +41 (0)26 347 42 00

International and French-speaking press

Aimée Papageorgiou

aimee.papageorgiou@fiff.ch

T. +41 (0)26 347 06 05

Presse Deutschschweiz

Valerie Thurner

valerie.thurner@fiff.ch

T. +41 (0)78 618 21 73

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

Palmares FIFF 2015

THE AWARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY: FEATURE FILMS

The members of the International Jury: Feature Films of the 29th Fribourg International Film Festival are:

Alanis Obomsawin, Canada (Filmmaker)

Ursula Meier, Suisse (Filmmaker)

Alix Delaporte, France (Filmmaker)

Rolf de Heer, Pays-Bas (Filmmaker)

GRAND PRIX LE REGARD D'OR

The Regard d'or is the Grand Prize of the Fribourg International Film Festival and consists of CHF 30,000 jointly bestowed by the State of Fribourg (CHF 20,000) and the Municipality of Fribourg (CHF 10,000). This award is conferred upon the director (CHF 20,000) and the producer (CHF 10,000) of the film.

The Regard d'or goes to:

GONZÁLEZ

Christian Díaz Pardo
Mexico, 2013

« For a socially relevant script that mixes humor, surprises and provocation; for performances and cinematographic style that bring this script to life, we choose for the Regard d'or a complete and engaging film, González. »

Special Jury Award

This prize awarded by the Swiss Authors Society (SAS) and Suissimage consisting of CHF 10,000 is bestowed on the director of the film chosen by the International Jury for the inventiveness of the screenplay and the direction, the rejuvenation of the cinematographic language, or the thematic and formal audacity shown.

This award goes to:

ATA

Chakme Rinpoche
China, 2013

« For its moments of cinematic grace, and its moments of cinematic jubilation; its efforts to frame its subject in its own visual and aural language, we chose for the Jury prize the film Ata. »

Special mention of the Jury

The International Jury: Feature Films wanted to give a special mention to:

FLAPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Diep Hoang Nguyen
Vietnam, 2014

« For its sensitivity and for the unaffected cinematic literacy of its direction, we would like to give a special mention to Flapping in the Middle of Nowhere. »

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

THE AWARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY: SHORT FILMS

The members of the International Jury: Short Films of the 29th Fribourg International Film Festival are:

Elodie Brunner, Suisse (producer)
Guillaume Mainguet, France (Filmmaker)
Betina Oberli, Suisse (Filmmaker)

BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM AWARD

The Best International Short Film Award, which is sponsored by FIFF, recognises innovative, independent film-making by emerging young talent. The International Jury: Short Films awards the CHF 7,500 cash prize to the winning director.

The Best International Short Film Award goes to:

ANTS APARTMENT

Tofigh Amani
Iraq, 2014

« The Prize is awarded to a piece of work that is as significant as it is beautifully rendered. By using radical and poetic cinematic language, this film addresses a historical, political and, unfortunately, quite current topic: genocide.

Through the emotive voice-over contrasting with the barren landscapes on screen, the viewer is led on an exceptionally intimate journey into the lives of people who never appear on screen, in a delicate portrayal of their day-to-day lives and tragedies. »

SPECIAL MENTION OF THE JURY

The International Jury: Short Films wanted to give a special mention to:

JILA

Karim Lakzadeh
Iran, 2014

« We are equally pleased to give a special mention to the Iranian film Jila by Karim Lakzadeh, for its skillful and astonishing account of a night in the life of two sisters, during which magic confronts with rationality and spreads both doubt and hope. »

THE AUDIENCE AWARD

This prize, consisting of CHF 5,000, is supported by FIFF and Banque Cantonale de Fribourg and awarded to the director of the film selected by the audience.

This award goes to:

CORN ISLAND

George Ovashvili
Georgia, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Hungary, 2014

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

THE ECUMENICAL JURY AWARD

This award (CHF 5,000) is conferred jointly by two development organisations, Action de Carême (Catholic) and Pain pour le Prochain (Protestant), upon the director whose film best reflects the values of these two organisations. Members of this year's Ecumenical Jury:

Michele Debidour (FR)

Rosemarie Fahndrich (CH)

Peter Meier-Apolloni (CH)

Bo Torp Pedersen (DK)

This award goes to:

FLAPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

Diep Hoang Nguyen

Vietnam, 2014

« Expressive and affectionate, the film tells the story of a very young couple. They want to free themselves from the confines of their poor neighborhood and are faced with an unwanted pregnancy. The director talks about the question of respect for life and dignity after - and it spreads confidence. »

THE FIPRESCI JURY AWARD

Awarded by the International Federation of the Cinematographic Press, this prize aims to promote the cinema as an art and encourage new and emerging films. Members of this year's FIPRESCI Jury:

Silvia Suess (CH)

Jose Antonio Teodoro (CA)

Dieter Wieczorek (FR)

The award goes to:

THE VALLEY

Ghassan Salhab

Lebanon, Germany, France, Qatar, 2014

« After struggling to select a single film between three serious contenders, we, the members of the FIPRESCI jury, are honored to present the International Critics Prize to a work that captivated our imagination through its arresting balance of mystery and revelation, of interior and exterior spaces, of clandestine enterprise and the chaotic outer world that encroaches upon it. The film uses signs without coherent referents to describe a global existential state of disorientation, identity lost and the absence of a possible future. »

FIFF

Festival International
de Films de Fribourg

THE YOUTH JURY AND THE EX-CHANGE AWARD

Conferred by Ex-CHANGE and amounting to CHF 5,000, this prize is awarded by the Youth Jury. It aims not only to give the young people a say in the Festival, but also to favour a film that takes into account the problems faced by youngsters in today's world. Members of this year's Youth Jury:

Samuel Campiche (CH)
Corentin Darcy (FR)
Audrey Hostettler (CH)
Gregoire Kubski (CH)
Milena Pellegrini (CH)
Eleonore Python (CH)
Louis Rebetez (CH)

The award goes to:

FLAPPING IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
Diep Hoang Nguyen
Vietnam, 2014

« The EX-CHANGE AWARD by the Youth Jury goes to the Vietnamese film Flapping in the Middle of Nowhere. The director Diep Hoang Nguyen mixes reality and fairy tale world and thus creates a unique, suggestive language of film, which always remains evident. Flapping in the Middle of Nowhere is a friendly, imaginative everyday image that will drive in our memories as the shallot in Huyens soup. »

THE DON QUIJOTE – THE AWARD OF THE IFFS-JURY

One of the major aims of the IFFS – and the Don Quijote Award – is to discover and diffuse major films, and in this light the IFFS has created «Discovery» an international network of cinematographic diffusion, which is meant to allow the public to have access to films that are habitually missing from the distribution or from the programming in movie theatres. Members of this year's IFFS Jury:

Prakash Reddy Bhimavarapu Siva Sarwa (IN)
Gemma Bird (UK)
Ricardo Da Silva (CH)

The award goes to:

LIFE MAY BE
Mania Akbari, Mark Coursins
United Kingdom, Iran, 2014

« We as a jury felt that the selected film was a poignant and poetic exploration focusing not only on a dialogue between culture and experience, but also between friends. The intimacy between the two protagonists enabled the film to consider issues of body image, iconology and the pressures placed on women in different cultures in an engaging and original manner. The form of storytelling lends itself to such complex discussions and is a fascinating way of approaching the topics raised. It was felt that due to the narrative style of this film and the emotions and debate it evokes it is the perfect film to be honored by the International Federation of Film Societies. »