

FIFF

30^e Festival International
de Films de Fribourg
11–19.03.2016

30th Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) 11. – 19.03.2016

Press release

The FIFF awards for both short and feature films go to women filmmakers

The FIFF anniversary edition was a resounding success. The Regard d'or, which comes with a 30'000 CHF cash prize, went to Israeli filmmaker Yaelle Kayam for her film *Mountain*. The International Jury: Feature Films – in a competition that was not numerically dominated by women – also chose to give a Special Jury Award worth 10'000 CHF to Mexican film *Semana Santa* by Alejandra Márquez Abella. The jury also gave a special mention to *YO* by Matías Meyer. The audience had an award too, which went to *Blanka* by Japanese director Kohki Hasei. The International Jury for Short Films selected the documentary *Iceberg* by Cuban filmmaker Juliana Gómez. The Swiss film students making up the CH Cinema Network Jury, a first time participant, attributed their prize to the Brazilian short *Mr. Alfredo*. The total cash value of the prizes awarded amounted to 65'500 CHF. Jane Campion, the grande dame of cinema and the only woman to have been awarded the Palme d'Or, welcomed the tribute paid to women by the FIFF. During the past week, the festival put the spotlight on African women directors, welcoming Nadia El Fani, Angèle Diabang, Rama Thiaw and Pocas Pascoal. Yangzom Brauen, Swiss-Tibetan filmmaker, was awarded the « Enrico Fulchignoni Award » by the UNESCO for her short film *Born in Battle*. With intercultural dialogue becoming more important than ever, this 30th edition has confirmed the essential position held by the FIFF.

The week was punctuated by a series of discussions and debates centring around the place of women in film. Both speakers and festivalgoers appreciated the context, which was conducive to raising issues related to current events. Pierre Rissient, a leading figure in the film world, captured his audience by sharing several unjustly forgotten works by filmmaker Ida Lupino.

The International Jury: Feature films, composed by Maja Zimmermann (Switzerland), Diep Hoang Nguyen (Vietnam), Alanté Kavaité (France), Aline Schmid (Switzerland) awarded **The Regard d'or** to *Mountain* by Israeli Yaelle Kayam.

The film tells the story of Zvia, a young practicing Orthodox Jew and mother of four, who lives in Jerusalem, in the middle of the cemetery on the Mount of Olives. While her husband and children are away, she wanders through the narrow cemetery footpaths to escape her daily routine. Once Zvia decides to go into the cemetery at night. There she becomes exposed to a social reality very different from her own...

The Jury has noted “the uniqueness of the settings and the precision with which the filmmaker unfolds this intimate quest and reveals to us the complexity of the world and of the human soul.” The Jury specially appreciated “the force and the beauty of the protagonist, whom we follow without passing judgement, and whom we feel so close to, in spite of the fact that the world she belongs to is so very far from our own.”

Awards feature films:

The Regard d'or: *Mountain* by Yaelle Kayam, Israel, 2015

Special Jury Award: *Semana Santa* by Alejandra Márquez Abella, Mexico, 2016

Special Jury Mention: *YO* by Matías Meyer, Mexico, 2016

The Audience Award: *Blanka* by Kohki Hasei, Philippines, 2015

The Ecumenical Jury Award: *Alias Maria* by José Luis Rugeles, Colombia, 2015

The FIPRESCI Jury Award: *Song of Songs* by Eva Neymann, Ukraine, 2015

The Youth Jury Award COMUNDO: *Hair* by Mahmoud Ghaffari, Iran, 2016

The Don Quijote Award of the International Federation of the Film Societies: *Mountain* by Yaelle Kayam, Israel, 2015

FIFF

30^e Festival International
de Films de Fribourg
11–19.03.2016

Awards short films:

Best International Short Film Award: *Iceberg* by Juliana Gómez, Cuba, 2015

CH Cinema Network Prize: *Mr Alfredo* by Vitor Souza Lima, Marcelo Santos and Venâncio Batalhone, Brasil, 2015

The FIFF celebrated its 30th birthday by fully meeting its target: not only has it maintained its 40'000 entries but it has increased the number of attendees (+2000). The FIFF was particularly pleased by the curiosity its audience displayed. Festivalgoers not only saw the films in competition, they were also eager to see the diversity of works showcased at the FIFF. Among the most popular screenings were the selection of works by African women directors, the films shown in the Genre Cinema section, as well as certain classics from the history of film. The programme for schools has also maintained its path of success with more than 10'800 students, coming from Fribourg and the neighbouring cantons.

Closing film

After the awards ceremony on Saturday, March 19, the film *Parched* by Indian director Leena Yadav (India, USA 2015) was shown as a Swiss Premiere.

The 31st FIFF edition will take place from March 31 to April 8, 2017.

DIRECTION

Thierry Jobin, artistic director

Giovanna Garghentini Python, administrative director

The team of the Fribourg International Film Festival

The FIFF 2016 press release as well as high definition press images are available on the website www.fiff.ch. We will also be happy to organise interviews with directors or the festival management.

FIFF Press Service

T +41 (0)26 347 42 00

F +41 (0)26 347 42 01

presse@fiff.ch | www.fiff.ch

Aimée Papageorgiou

Head of press

T +41 (0)26 347 42 09

M +41 (0)79 605 06 05

aimee.papageorgiou@fiff.ch

Jenifer Oester

Press assistant

T +41 (0)26 347 42 00

M +41 (0)79 776 62 60

jenifer.oester@fiff.ch

Valerio Bonadei

German-speaking Press

M +41 (0)79 653 65 03

valerio@filmbuero.ch

Anne Pampin

International Press

M+ 33(0) 6 77 08 29 44

anne.pampin@gmail.com