

13th Jihlava IDFF 2009 Day Five – Winners Announced!

Press Release, October 31, 2009

The closing ceremony of the festival – again under the direction of the VOSTO5 Theatre – announced the winners.

OPUS BONUM

Best International Documentary Film Award 2009

The only member of the competition, Jørgen Leth awarded the film **Bassidji** (d. Tamadon Mehran, Iran, France, Switzerland 2009)

With his direct access to members of the Islamic religious militia, the director of this film allows us to understand the thinking of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards. The first part of the film shows its members worshipping the dead in the desert. The second takes place in Tehran.

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

The jury commented his decision: *“It was the first film I saw, and I must say I was never in doubt. It represents for me some of the best qualities in documentary film making. It wants to examine reality, and it explores with subtlety and elegance one of the most complex and explosive situations of today’s world, the confrontation between opposition and regime in Iran. The filmmaker Tamadon Mehran (who lives in Paris) says in the film that he is “asking questions in order to understand”. That is for me the universal virtue of documentary films. To say (with my words: “I don’t know, I will see where it leads me”.*

CZECH JOY

Award for the best Czech documentary film 2009 under the auspices of RWE – Energy of Czech Film (100 000 CZK)

The jury awarded the film **I Love My Boring Life** (*Mám ráda nudný život*, d. Jan Gogola, Jr., Czech Republic 2009).

Alena Němcová’s notes on the weather, dreams, exercising, cooking and other family and world events enter the film, which, like a river of surreal everyday life flow, tries to change rather than just capture reality, depicting different worlds living under one roof.

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

“In a unique way, the film thematizes both the transparency and impenetrability of the world’s surface and the human experience. The jury appreciates the almost zen-like balance of movement and stillness as well as the permeation of inward intimacy and external events,” the jury commented its verdict.

The jury has also awarded Special mention to the film **Brain Fight** (*Souboj s mozkem*, d. Jan Šípek)

A threefold portrait, presenting the reality within the limits of a subjective view, puts together the lives of an increasingly more remote writer and musician; a hacker, dreaming his dream

of transformation into a purely virtual existence in the depths of technology; and an undertaker, unrealistic raconteur, living on the history of half-mythical Sudetenland.

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

“In the field of science, for some it is hard to understand the difference between applied and basic research – while in the latter, revolutionary and unexpected discoveries are born. This film represents the basic research - in the best sense of the word - in the field of art. Despite its apparently personal theme, it penetrates the transpersonal paradoxes of human existence as well as the sources of human creativity,” agreed the jury.

The members of the jury were the following:

Petr Fischer / philosopher and journalist (CZ)

Vít Janeček / filmmaker and essayist (CZ)

Karel Thein / philosopher (CZ)

Blahoslav Žilka / optician (CZ)

BETWEEN THE SEAS

Best Eastern European Documentary Film Award 2009 under the auspices of the Vysočina region (150 000 CZK)

The jury awarded the film ***Border*** (*Hranica*, d. Jaroslav Vojtek, Slovakia 2009)

In 1946, the post-war border separated families and also split the cemetery in two as one part of the village of Slemence ended up in Czechoslovakia while the other found itself in the Ukraine. It seems the village is far from reuniting, since the border which is now an edge of the European Union is guarded even more tightly than before.

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

“We are happy that the film we chose as best film also addresses many pressing issues such as: The legacy of communism, the persistence of arbitrary borders, the cruelties of absolute power, the indifference of remote authority, the importance of religion, the challenges faced by an older generation, and the struggle of families to remain together despite all these forces that divide them. Jaroslav Vojtek’s film explores all these issues in a rich, engaging cinematic form,” appreciated the jury of the section.

The members of the jury were the following:

Bill Nichols / film theorist (USA)

Amir Labaki / director of the festival It’s All True (Brasil)

Kuba Dąbrowski / photographer and blogger (PL)

Svätopluk Mikyta / visual artist and performer (SR)

FASCINATIONS

Best Experimental Documentary Film Award 2009

The jury awarded the film ***Workers Leaving the Factory (Dubai)*** (d. Ben Russell, USA 2008)

“Workers Leaving the Factory” was one of the films screened by the Lumiere Brothers during the first public performance of Cinématograph – Russell hearkened back to the source of the

film and paraphrased it in a desert city flourishing thanks to oil incomes; however, his workers are not walking, they are merely waiting.

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

The jury comment their decision: *“Our family jury selected the film Workers Leaving the Factory (Dubai) by Ben Russell as the winning film. Employing ascetic means of expression and Dubai workers, the author reintroduces the work by the Lumiere brothers of the same title. The static scene, absence of sound and the entrance of chance thus create a construction site of ambiguous interpretations.”*

The members of the jury were the following:

Jan Daňhel / editor, photographer, surrealist (CZ)

Tereza Daňhelová / architect (CZ)

Veronika Daňhelová / photographer (CZ)

AUDIENCE AWARD

The Audience Award was presented by chief programming director Alena Müllerová on behalf of the Czech Television, going to the film **Auto*mate** (d. Martin Mareček, Czech Republic 2009)

*A film of many styles, combining documentary with animation, jazzing up the time principle by provoking situations, tells a personal story of the director-biker as well as the journey of Auto*mat initiative from poetic demonstrations against cars to a constructive component of a living civic society.*

- annotation taken over from the IDFF Jihlava 2009 catalogue

(Following awards has been announced during the opening ceremony)

CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CINEMA AWARD

The Contribution to World Cinema Award went to the special festival guest and jury of the Opous Bonum section, Danish filmmaker **Jørgen Leth**. The award was presented by the director of Jihlava IDFF Marek Hovorka.

RESPEKT PRIZE

For the third time already, the Respekt weekly in cooperation with Jihlava IDFF awarded the best television and video reportage of the past year. Presented at the festival closing ceremony, the **Respekt Prize** went to David Macháček and Radek Kudela, authors of the reportage **Debtless I and II** (Bezdlužníci) from the production of CT.

SECTION FOR FILM PROFESSIONALS

East European Forum 2009

The East European Forum knows its first “**winners**”. The closing ceremony ended with the **Golden Funnel** award in the hands of the creators of the **Field of Magic**, a **Lithuanian documentary** on the peculiar subculture of people living on a gigantic garbage dump. The same project has already been awarded by the lecturers of the preparatory workshop for the greatest advance made during the four days of the workshop. “We are very happy, because we worked really hard at the workshop. We want to thank especially the tutors without whom we wouldn’t be this far today,” reacts Giedre Beinoriute, the producer of the leaper-award winning pitch.

This year’s **IDFA Forum** Award traditionally presented at the East European Forum goes to **Bulgaria**. The authors of the documentary in making entitled **The Last Black Sea Pirates And Sir Norman Foster** dealing with the clash of human and commercial principles in the environmentally protected area of a Black Sea beach will have the opportunity to present their documentary at the most prestigious **IDFA documentary festival in Amsterdam**. “I didn’t expect it at all. I am simply excited. We are looking forward to meeting especially the British commissioning editors,” confides director Svetoslav Stoyanov.

The 2 awarded projects were chosen from 14 presentations to commissioning editors at today’s **pitching forum**. The commissioning editors best responded to the Czech-Icelandic film entitled **Iceland: A Bankrupt Nation** on the impact of the economic crisis on the society of the nation which has until recently ranked the richest in the world and the Georgian documentary by talented director **Salome Jashi** entitled **Restaurant Bakhmaro And Those Who Work There**. Hungarian documentary filmmaker **Gyula Nemes** has presented his film entitled **Recycling** and now he can look forward to cooperation with **the Czech Television**. “This year, the standard at the forum is very high. The atmosphere is great and I can’t wait for the Sunday session.” With these words, director of the **Ex Oriente Film** program **Tue Steen Müller** invites the audience to the **hall of Jihlava’s Secondary Graphic Art School**. On the final day of the coproduction meeting, **six remaining documentary projects** from Central and Eastern Europe will be presented.

East Silver 2009

SILVER EYE is an award for the best feature, mid and short length documentary of the East Silver Market. Documentaries have been selected from East Silver Market submissions 2009. Selection committee has nominated 11 films in each category. Best films will be awarded a **magnifying glass** specially designed by designers Zdeněk Vacek and Dan Pošta and **prize money of EUR 1 500** - Best Short Documentary, Best Mid-Length and Best Feature Documentary.

Silver Eye Jury:

For Short Documentary

[Danielle DiGiacomo](#), Consultant, Producer Tribeca Gucci Fund / IFP / Dandig Productions, USA

[Catherine Le Clef](#), Head of Acquisitions & Sales, CAT & Docs, France

[Jenny Ross](#), Acquisitions WITNESS Programme, Al Jazeera English, UK

For Mid-Length Documentary

[Charlotte Gry Madsen](#), Sales and Programme Consultant, DR International Sales / DR - Danish Broadcasting Corp., Denmark

[Philippa Kowarsky](#), Managing Director, Cinephil, Israel

[Charles Schuerhof](#), Director of Acquisitions & Sales, PBS International, USA

For Feature Documentary

[Anais Clanet](#), International Sales, Wide Management, France

[Sean Farnel](#), Director of Programming, Hot Docs, Canada

[Cynthia Kane](#), Programming Manager, ITVS Television's Independent Voice / ITVS International, USA

Winners of the Silver Eye 2009:

Category: Short Documentary

Six Weeks directed by Marcin Janos Krawczyk, Poland

Special mention for **Arsy-Versy** directed by Miro Remo, Slovakia

Category: Mid-Length Documentary

Rabbit a la Berlin directed by Bartek Konopka, Poland/ Germany (participated in the Ex Oriente Film Workshop and pitched at the East European Forum 2005)

Special mention for **The Sidetrack** directed by Anna Kazejak, Poland

Category: Feature Documentary

Disco and Atomic War directed by Jaak Kilmi, Estonia/Finland (pitched at the East European Forum 2007)

The Silver Eye Awards were given out at the 6th East Silver Market during the Closing ceremony of the XIII. Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival on October 31, 2009.

We invite you cordially to Jihlava IDFF 2009:

Marek Hovorka / festival director / fedofil@dokument-festival.cz

Andrea Slováková / publishing director, experimental film programmer / andrea@dokument-festival.cz

Jan Hlubek / head of media communication / 774 101 652 / media@dokument-festival.cz

Dagmar Ostránská / executive and marketing director / 774 101 656 / dagmar@dokument-festival.cz

Film Principal Partner:
RWE

Principal Media Partner:
Czech Television

Co-organizer of Industry Section:
Institute of Documentary

Partners:

Easytalk
DataKal
Student Agency
HBO
BS auto Brno

Principal Regional Partner:
Pivovar Jihlava

Regional Partners:

Kronospan
Bosch
net-profi

Festival Sponsors:

Ministerstvo kultury ČR
Státní fond ČR pro podporu a rozvoj
české kinematografie
Město Jihlava
International Visegrad Fund
Kraj Vysočina
Kubánské velvyslanectví
Francouzské velvyslanectví
Velvyslanectví USA

Media Partners:

Respekt
aktuálně.cz
Český rozhlas Leonardo
Český rozhlas 3 Vltava
Cinema
Rádio 1
Cinepur
Advojka kulturní čtrnáctideník
Film a doba
Internet Billboard
100+1

Regional Media Partners:

Český rozhlas Region
Jihlavské listy
Hitrádio Vysočina
SNIP & CO, reklamní společnost

Media Cooperation:

Freemusic
Vysočina news
Houser
25fps

Foreign Media Partners:

Kino Ikon
Film New Media