



AFI FEST 2001

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Contacts: Marina Bailey 323.650.3627 marinab323@aol.com
Bernardo Rondeau 323.856.7754 brondeau@AFIonline.org

AFI FEST 2001 ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL AND AUDIENCE AWARDS

November 11, 2001 (Los Angeles) – AFI FEST 2001, Los Angeles' most prestigious film festival concluded with its annual Awards Announcement, honoring new talent for their artistry in filmmaking. Festival Director Christian Gaines announced the winners of the Festival and Audience Awards.

"Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of our sponsors, AFI FEST 2001 is offering more than \$30,000 worth of prizes to filmmakers in a series of awards intended to commend their achievements and celebrate their artistry," stated Gaines.

AFI FEST 2001 kicked off with DARK BLUE WORLD from Academy Award® winner Jan Sverák and showcased more than 100 films throughout the festival. The Centerpiece Gala was Ray Lawrence's LANTANA starring Anthony LaPaglia, Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey. Other events included the launch of the KODAK CONNECT Program, a forum open to delegates with films at AFI FEST 2001 to meet with representatives from all corners of the independent film community, and the world premiere of Henry Jaglom's FESTIVAL IN CANNES which was shown alongside Faye Dunaway's directorial debut, THE YELLOW BIRD. AFI FEST 2001 celebrated director Ang Lee with the Filmmaker Tribute which included a retrospective of 6 of his films. The festival concluded with the world premiere of Marc Forster's MONSTER'S BALL starring Billy Bob Thornton, Halle Berry and Heath Ledger.

The four juried prizes were:

- The Feature Jury Prize, presented by the United States Postal Service, **THE NEW COUNTRY** (Sweden, 2000, Directed by Geir Hansteen Jörgensen), a road-movie about two refugees, Massoud, a 40-year old Iranian, and Ali, a 15-year-old Somalian, who, having been denied a residence permit in Sweden, decide to tour the country that they hope to make their home. Special Mention went to **NO MAN'S LAND** (France/Italy/Belgium/UK/Slovenia, 2001, Directed by Danis Tanovic) a provocative fable that takes an uncompromising look at the Bosnian war through the plight of three soldiers trapped in a trench in no man's land.
- Documentary Jury Prize, presented by The Silver: AFI/Discovery Documentary

Festival, **PIE IN THE SKY: THE BRIGID BERLIN STORY** (USA, 2000, Directed by Vincent Fremont and Shelly Dunn Fremona) a film which chronicles the obsessive and fascinating life of Andy Warhol's Chelsea Girl, Brigid Berlin, from wealthy socialite to trash-talking-rebel-bad-girl. Special Mention went to **A SAD FLOWER IN THE SAND** (The Netherlands, 2001, Directed by Jan Louter) a poetic rapture of energy and release that annals the tumultuous life of writer John Fante.

- Short Jury Prize, presented by Dell, **DELUSIONS IN MODERN PRIMITIVISM** (USA, 2000, Directed by Daniel Loflin). Bored with his tattoos and piercings, Jerome looks for an alternative form of body modification. Special Mention for Acting went to Anne Carney in **CHAPERONE** (USA, 2000, Directed by Victor Buhler). **CHAPERONE** is the story of Dorrie, a straitlaced Midwestern woman who is asked to escort her 15 year-old niece on a first date. Special Mention for Technical Excellence went to **COPY SHOP** (Austria, 2001, Directed by Virgil Widrich). **COPY SHOP** is the story of a man who works in a copy shop and reproduces himself until he fills the whole world.
- The Kodak Vision Award In Cinematography Award, went to Darko Suvak, Director of Photography **SKIES, SATELLITES** (Croatia, 2000, Directed by Lukas Nola), a transcendent tale about one man's journey through ravaged post-war Croatia.
- The Los Angeles Times Audience Award for Feature Film, **NO MAN'S LAND** (France/Italy/Belgium/UK/Slovenia, 2001, Directed by Danis Tanovic) a provocative fable that takes an uncompromising look at the Bosnian war through the plight of three soldiers trapped in a trench in no man's land.
- The Los Angeles Times Audience Award for Documentary, **DOGTOWN AND Z-BOYS** (USA, 2001, Directed by Stacy Peralta). Peralta, one of the original Z-Boys, captures the thrilling evolution of a rag-tag team of misfit surfers and their rise to subculture popularity through a new style of aggressive skateboarding.
- The Los Angeles Times Audience Award for Short Film, **THE PARLOR** (USA, 2001, Directed by Geoffrey Haley). A group of strangers in a waiting room pass the time with flirtation, antagonism and deceit.

The jury for the Feature Jury Prize was John Bailey, Len Klady and Susan Morris:

Cinematographer John Bailey has photographed more than 45 films including **ORDINARY PEOPLE**, **THE BIG CHILL**, **THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST**, **IN THE LINE OF FIRE**, **NOBODY'S FOOL** and **AS GOOD AS IT GETS**. Among his directing credits are **CHINA MOON**, **MARIETTE IN ECSTASY** and **VIA DOLOROSA**. As a writer he has contributed to American Cinematographer; International Camera Guild, The Director's Guild and The New York Times. His most recent release as cinematographer was **THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY** and he has just completed production on **DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA YA SISTERHOOD** for writer-director Callie Khouri.

Len Klady is an LA based journalist, reviewer and columnist whose work has appeared in Entertainment Weekly; Film Comment, The New York Times, Premiere and The Washington Post. He has been a columnist and staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, Screen International and Variety and, most recently, headed the film unit of Reportertv.com. In addition to being an award-winning radio drama producer, he has directed and written for television and co-wrote the independent feature SNAP SHOT.

Susan Morris is the Associate Director of the Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Award, which is presented annually to honor and support visionary filmmakers of the next generation. Films that have been supported through the program include CENTRAL STATION, SMOKE SIGNALS, THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER, LIFT and LA CIÉNEGA. Also a producer and screenwriter, Morris graduated with distinction from USC's School of Cinema-Television.

The jury for the Documentary Jury Prize was Kate Amend, Rachel Rosen and Ted Thomas

Kate Amend was the editor of the 2000 Academy Award®-winning documentary feature, INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS: STORIES OF THE KINDERTRANSPORT and the Oscar-nominated documentary short ON TIPTOE: GENTLE STEPS TO FREEDOM. Amend also received the 2000 American Cinema Editors' Eddie award for INTO THE ARMS OF STRANGERS. Her work has appeared in film festivals throughout the world as well as on PBS, NBC, HBO, Lifetime, History and Sundance Channels.

Rachel Rosen was recently named Director of Programming for the IFP/West and the IFP/West Los Angeles Film Festival. Previously Rosen was the Associate Director of Programming for the San Francisco Film Society and the San Francisco International Film Festival, where she had been a programmer since 1994. She has worked in various capacities for the New York Film Festival, New York's Film Forum and Tri-Star Pictures. A graduate of Stanford University's Master of Arts program in Documentary Film, Rosen directed the short documentary SERIOUS WEATHER. She is an occasional contributor on the subject of documentary film to Film Comment.

Ted Thomas's film FRANK AND OLLIE debuted at the 1995 Sundance Film Festival, won the People's Choice Award at Worldfest Houston and was an audience favorite at numerous international festivals. A 1997 screenwriting and directing fellow of the Sundance Institute with the project BABY PHOTO, his previous documentary work has garnered a National Emmy, and two WGA Award nominations. A former Vice President of the Independent Feature Project/West, Thomas was one of the founders of Filmmaker magazine, and initiated the Truer Than Fiction Award for nonfiction feature filmmakers (presented annually at the Independent Spirit Awards). He has served as a judge of the International Documentary Association awards and on the jury of the Sundance Film Festival.

The jury for the Short Jury Prize was Angela Lee, Pamela Martin and Mark Waters.

Angela Lee has been working with and programming film festivals for almost a decade. She is currently the Director of Programming of the South by Southwest

Film Festival in Austin, Texas. Before she got drawn into the festival circuit, she produced and acted for short films. She also holds a degree in Linguistics.

Pamela Martin's career as an editor has included television and film, documentaries and features. She has edited Tamara Jenkins' THE SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS, Mark Waters' THE HOUSE OF YES and David O. Russell's SPANKING THE MONKEY. Previously, she worked on Ang Lee's early films, and also on the PBS special DOTTIE GETS SPANKED for Todd Haynes and Michael Moorer's TV NATION.

Mark Waters grew up in South Bend, Indiana, then attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with honors in Economics and Theatre Arts. He lived in San Francisco working as a theatre actor and director, then moved to Los Angeles in 1992 to attend the AFI Conservatory. Graduating in the spring of 1994, he shot his first feature, THE HOUSE OF YES, in the summer of 1996, which went on to be a hit at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. He directed the February, 2001 release, HEAD OVER HEELS, for Universal Pictures, and is currently developing various film and television projects.

The other festival sections included:

Latin Cinema Series
Asian New Classics
European Showcase
American Directions
Anime Special Event

We warmly thank the following sponsors for contributing prizes: Agnes B., Alaska Airlines, The Argyle Hotel, Avid, Bourgeois Pig, Confete, Coogi, Dell, Final Draft, Homework, Kodak, Krispy Kreme, L.A. Eyeworks, Lufthansa, Miceli's, Midway Rental Car, Moviola, Newtek, Nike, Palm, Persol, Roots, Starbucks and Young's Market.

Among the celebrities who attended AFI FEST 2001 were: Steven Soderbergh, Faye Dunaway, James Coburn, Anthony LaPaglia, Barbara Hershey, Kerry Armstrong, Carrie Fisher, Vince Vaughn, Julie Delpy, Gloria Stuart, Anthony Kiedis, Paul Schraeder, Mimi Rogers, Mesach Taylor, Balthazar Getty, Amy Heckerling, Henry Jaglom, Jan Sverák, Dulé Hill, Rebecca Gayheart, Seymour Cassel, Meshach Taylor, Jacqueline Bisset, Saul Zaentz, Tony Alvo, Jennifer Grey, Danielle Fishel, Richard Hurt, Robert Forster, Halle Berry, Sean Combs, Mos Def, Marc Forster, Ang Lee, Jean-Jacques Beineix, Peter Sheridan and Peter Boyle.

The 2001 Festival ran November 1-11 and was headquartered at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.

AFI FEST 2001's sponsors include: The United States Postal Service, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, The Silver: AFI/Discovery Documentary Festival, Hollywood & Highland, Skirball Cultural Center, Absolut, Lufthansa, the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau, Dell, the Cultural Affairs Department/City of Los Angeles, The Hollywood Sign Trust, KCRW, Agnes B., Universal Studios Operations Group, Kodak, Home Box Office, Ramada West Hollywood, Starbuck's, Panasonic Broadcast, Cinemax, Nike, Palm, Puma, Variety, and the Los Angeles Times.

AFI FEST is one of the nation's fastest-growing film events and the premier international film festival in Los Angeles. Through a major international competition, regional showcases and special events, AFI FEST 2001 captures the cultural diversity of Los Angeles while providing new and established filmmakers with a crucial avenue of exposure to the film community.

Each year AFI FEST has grown in prominence and success, attracting an audience of over 40,000 people to the historic movie theatres along Hollywood Boulevard. Encompassing 11 days across two weekends in November, AFI FEST strives to serve as the festival-of-record for the very best in international film. Films such as LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL, THE CIDER HOUSE RULES, QUILLS, BEFORE NIGHT FALLS, O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?, AMORES PERROS and YOU CAN COUNT ON ME have all premiered at previous AFI film festivals.

AFI is the preeminent organization dedicated to advancing and preserving the art of film, television and other forms of the moving image. AFI trains the next generation of moving image artists, provides leadership in the nationwide film and television preservation effort and explores new technologies in the digital media arts. AFI also presents the best of film through the AFI FEST in Los Angeles, the AFI National Theatre in Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and the annual AFI Life Achievement Award, the highest honor given for a career in film. More information about AFI can be found by visiting its award-winning Web site, located at www.AFIONline.org.

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