

Fantasia

FANTASIA CONCLUDES A POWERHOUSE 20TH EDITION AND ANNOUNCES ITS 2016 AWARDS

Montreal, Thursday, August 4th, 2016 — Following three straight weeks of screenings, today the Fantasia International Film Festival finishes its 20th edition. The festival filled to bursting the SGWU Alumni Auditorium (Hall Theatre), the J.A. De Sève Cinema and the D.B. Clarke Theatre at Concordia University, as well as the McCord Museum, la Cinémathèque québécoise, Place de la Paix in le Quartier des Spectacles, and at the Vidéotron stage at the Just For Laughs Festival. For the seventh consecutive year, Fantasia attracted over 100,000 spectators to a total of 209 cinema screenings, three free outdoor screenings, 11 virtual-reality films and numerous special events.

Among the many standout moments of the 20th edition were 19 world premieres, including KING DAVE by Daniel Grou, this year's opening film, as well as THE TOP SECRET: MURDER IN MIND by Keishi Otomo, GORAN by Nevio Marasovic, SHE'S ALLERGIC TO CATS by Michael Reich, THE UNSEEN by Geoff Redknap UN PETIT BOULOT by Pascal Chaumeil, REALIVE by Mateo Gill, KICKBOXER: VENGEANCE by John Stockwell and SOME FREAKS by Ian MacAllister-McDonald. Also noteworthy were the many sold-out screenings that included LET ME MAKE YOU A MARTYR by Corey Asraf and John Swab, IF CATS DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD by Akira Nagai, LIGHTS OUT by David F. Sandberg, I, OLGA HEPNAROVA by Petr Kazda and Tomas Weinreb, EMBERS by Claire Carré, TRAIN TO BUSAN by Yeon Sang-ho, PSYCHO RAMAN by Anurag Kashyap, TERRAFORMARS by Takashi Miike, SHELLEY by Ali Abbasi and DON'T BREATHE by Fede Alvarez, this year's closing film.

A large number of special guests were present for the festival's 20th anniversary, including directors Guillermo Del Toro and Takashi Miike, both in Montreal to receive a Cheval Noir and Lifetime Achievement Award respectively. Fantasia is also proud to have presented the inaugural Prix Denis Héroux to filmmaker Jean-Claude Lord, celebrating his exceptional contribution to the development of québécois genre cinema.

Almost 700 international guests, including some 400 film industry professionals, came to Montreal over the course of the festival and the Frontières international co-production market.

AWARDS OF THE 20TH EDITION

The Fantasia International Film Festival is proud to announce the names of the award winners of its 20th edition. The winners were selected by the juries as well as by the festival's audiences.

CHEVAL NOIR

The jury, overseen by Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado (directors) and composed of Cyril Despontin (Paris International Fantastic Film Festival), George Schmalz (Film Outreach Lead at Kickstarter), Justine Smith (critic) and Marcus Stiglegger (critic and researcher), selected the following winners:

Cheval Noir Award for Best Feature: TRAIN TO BUSAN by Yeon Sang-ho

Cheval Noir Award for Best Director: Kiyoshi Kurosawa for CREEPY

Cheval Noir Award for Best Screenplay: E J-Yong for THE BACCHUS LADY

Cheval Noir Award for Best Actor: Franko Dijak, GORAN

Cheval Noir Award for Best Actress: Youn Yuh-jung, THE BACCHUS LADY

Special Jury Prize: THE LURE (Poland, dir.: Agnieszka Smoczyńska) "for being a timeless cinematic fairytale — an instant cult classic!"

NEW FLESH AWARD FOR BEST FIRST FEATURE

The jury, overseen by Michael Gingold (critic) and composed of Grady Hendrix (author, co-founder of New York Asian Film Festival), Kate McEdwards (Oscilloscope Laboratories) and Nicolas Stanzick (critic and musician), selected the following winners:

New Flesh Award for Best First Feature (awarded unanimously): MAN UNDERGROUND by Michael Borowiec and Sam Marine.

Special Jury Mention: Lily Mae Harrington, "for her remarkable, nuanced and boldly honest performance in her feature-film debut, SOME FREAKS."

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Le jury, overseen by Chris Oosterom (Artistic Director, Festival Imagine, Amsterdam) and composed of Heather Buckley (critic, designer, Blu-ray supplement producer) and Peter Kuplowsky (producer and programmer, Fantastic Fest and Toronto After Dark), selected the following winners:

Best International Short: A NEARLY PERFECT BLUE SKY (France) "The Jury is excited to award Best International Short to Quarxx, whose visionary and ambitious short cements him as a provocative auteur that we look forward to seeing more from."

Special Jury Mention for Best Emerging Short Filmmaker: Tanya Lemke for *STATIC* (Canada) “The Jury would like to recognize this emotionally charged parable on grief and loss for its thoughtful and confident filmmaking, announcing the arrival of a promising new talent.”

Special Jury Mention for Aesthetic Innovation: *ESTATE* (France / Belgium) “The Jury would also like to recognize Ronny Trocker's deft synthesis of compelling visual experimentation with a profound meditation on a pressing contemporary socio-cultural reality.”

SATOSHI KON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ANIMATION

The jury, overseen Julie Roy (Executive Producer, French Animation Studio, National Film Board of Canada) and composed of Benoît Melançon (Assistant Professor and specialist in previsualization, UQAC/NAD), Alex Parkinson (Visual Effects Supervisor, Feature Animation Division, Cinesite) and Tamu Townsend (Curator of the Emru Townsend Foundation), selected the following winners:

Satoshi Kon Award for Best Animated Feature: *PSYCHONAUTS, THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN* (Spain, dir: Alberto Vazquez, Pedro Rivero). “For its originality and vision in terms of aesthetic, narrative and characterization, *PSYCHONAUTS* defies comparison. Combined with its post-apocalyptic atmosphere and audacious themes, it achieves a daring balance that is at once destabilizing and engaging.”

Satoshi Kon Award for Best Animated Short: *STEMS* (U.K., dir: Ainslie Henderson). “The jury universally loved this short and sweet animation about the joy and tragedy of animation itself. In particular, they enjoyed the unique rough style with lent the piece a tangibility and charm, and complimented the message. *STEMS* packs a lot of big ideas into a short run time.”

Special Jury Mention for Synergy of Narration and Art: *CLOUDS* (Canada dir: Diego Maclean) “The jury conveys a special mention to the film *CLOUDS* to underscore the judicious balance between its artistic direction and narrative. The story is well crafted and highly effective. It is upheld by a harmonious and delicate design that skillfully contrasts with the cruelty of the story.”

BARRY CONVEX AWARD FOR BEST CANADIAN FEATURE

The jury, composed of Kier-la Janisse (author, editor-in-chief of *Spectacular Optical*), Paul Corupe (author and screenwriter) and Mario DeGiglio-Bellamare (filmmaker, writer and programmer), awarded *Spectacular Optical's* Barry Convex Award to *FEUILLES MORTES* by Thierry Bouffard, Carnior et Edouard Tremblay. The award is accompanied by a \$1000 prize, thanks to the Paul A. Ray Memorial Fund. The jury also presents a Special Mention to *ÉCARTÉE* by Lawrence Côté-Collins, saluting an accomplished exercise in voyeuristic suspense.

PRIX AQCC (Association québécoise des critiques de cinéma) 2016

The jury, overseen by Martin Gignac and composed of Céline Gobert and Olivier Thibodeau, awarded the Prix AQCC to THE WAILING by Na Hong-jin.

PRIX SÉQUENCES

The jury, overseen by Pascal Grenier and composed of Jean-Marie Lanlo and Guillaume Potvin, awarded the Prix Séquences to WE ARE THE FLESH by Emiliano Rocha Minter.

PRIX L'ÉCRAN FANTASTIQUE

Le prix L'Écran fantastique, selected by Yves Rivard, was awarded to BEFORE I WAKE by Mike Flanagan.

THE AUDIENCE AWARDS

Audience Award for Best European / North-South American Feature

Gold – Tie between HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (Dir: Taika Waititi) and UN PETIT BOULOT (Dir: Pascal Chaumeil)

Silver – THEY CALL ME JEEG (Dir: Gabriele Mainetti)

Bronze – Tie between KIKI: LOVE TO LOVE (Dir: Paco León) and THE LURE (Dir: Agnieszka Smoczynska)

Audience Award for Best Asian Feature

Gold – TRAIN TO BUSAN (Dir: Yeon Sang-ho)

Silver – TOO YOUNG TO DIE (Dir: Kankuro Kudo)

Bronze – THE WAILING (Dir: Na Hong-jin)

Audience Award for Best Canadian Feature

Gold – KING DAVE (Dir: Daniel Grou)

Silver – FEUILLES MORTES (Dirs: Thierry Bouffard, Carnior, Edouard A. Tremblay)

Bronze – tie between ÉCARTÉE (Dir: Lawrence Côté-Collins) and OPERATION AVALANCHE (Dir: Matt Johnson)

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature

FOR THE LOVE OF SPOCK (Dir: Adam Nimoy)

Audience Award for Best Animated Feature

SEOUL STATION (Dir: Yeon Sang-ho)

Audience Award for Best International Short

Gold – SNAKEBITE (Dir: Tim Hyten)

Silver – NO TOUCHING (Dirs: Adam Davis, Will Corona Pilgrim)

Bronze – L'OURS NOIR (Dirs: Méryl Fortunat Rossi, Xavier Seron)

Audience Award for Best Quebecois Short

Gold – CARNASSE (Dir: Francis Bordeleau)

Silver - CAUCHEMAR CAPITONNÉ (Dir: Jean-Claude Leblanc)

Bronze – BULLSHIT (Dir: Marc Wiltshire)

Furthermore, the festival's audiences were invited to vote for the best virtual reality film. This year's selection of virtual-reality genre films was programmed in collaboration with the CFC Media Lab. The section consisted of 11 titles, five of which were Canadian and six international productions. The Samsung Virtual Reality Award went to the short film KILLER DEAL from US director Anthony C. Ferrante.

Lastly, as part of the program of family films MON PREMIER FANTASIA AU MUSÉE McCORD, a youth jury consisting four members aged between 8 and 10 years old awarded this year's Prix jeunesse Mon premier Fantasia to (SIMON'S CAT) A VISIT AT THE VET by U.K. animator Simon Tofield.

The Fantasia International Film Festival wishes to thank its sponsors and partners for their effort and support. For its 20th edition Fantasia was able to count on the support of 50 sponsor-partners, a dozen media partners and 130 advertisers.

The Fantasia International Film Festival's 21st edition will take place in July 2017.