

2007 TORONTO STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL

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March 30-31-07

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2007 JUDGING PANEL

Andrew D. Long, WSFF & CFC
Sarah Haaz, CORUS Entertainment
Alistair Leyland, Filmmaker
Denise Hastings & Colleen Ayoup,
Citizenshift/NFB

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TORONTO STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS First Ever Festival Celebrates Filmmaking Achievements of High School Students

MARCH 31, 2007, TORONTO- Organizers have announced the winners of the top ten awards for the second annual **TORONTO STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL**, held March 30 and 31 at the state-of-the-art theatre in the Centre for Creative Learning at Crescent School. This unique event celebrates short films (under 10 minutes) created by students during their secondary (high) school years. This year, hundreds of films were submitted from Canada, the U.S., Europe and Asia. The first night of the festival featured a "Nominee Showcase" of the top 25 films. Judges included Andrew David Long (Canadian Film Center/Worldwide Short Film Festival), Denise Hastings and Colleen Ayoup (*CITIZENShift* – National Film Board), Canadian filmmaker Alistair Leyland, and Sarah Haaz (Corus Entertainment).

WINNERS are:

BEST OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT: "The Substitute," a comedy concerning a prank in algebra class. Created, Directed and Produced by Katie McDowell, Episcopal High School, Houston, Texas.

2nd PLACE- OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT: "The Paper Heart," a moving story about the chain reaction caused by the kindness of a stranger. Created, Directed and Produced by Janice Lee, Glenforest Secondary School, Mississauga.

3rd PLACE- OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT: A tie between: "Attackulus," a mini drama about a student's fear of math. Created, Directed and Produced by Efehan Elbi, Malvern Collegiate Institute, Greater Toronto Area. ---and--- "Bruno," an amusing animation about a dog who seeks revenge against his neglectful owner. Created, Directed and Produced by Aven Fisher, King's View Academy, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR FILM EXCELLENCE: "Scar," a story of a girl's haunted abusive past as experienced through the dreams of a stranger. Created, Directed and Produced by Arman Draginov, Crescent School, Toronto.

BEST SCREENPLAY: "Due Date," an endearing story where romance writing in class leads to a big date. Created, Directed and Produced by Chris Britton, Strath Haven High School, Philadelphia, PA.

EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD FOR FILM EXCELLENCE: "Jump Drive," a mini drama where the challenge of a misplaced "jump drive" holding an important class assignment, create the temptation of plagiarism. Created, Directed and Produced by Spencer Genrts, Jonathan Mora, Allison Hastings, and Patrick Roy, Pickering College, Pickering, ON.

New Award --- CITIZENShift FILM WITH IMPACT AWARD, given to a film with a strong social message: "A Promise Is a Promise," a moving film telling the story of two war torn boys and their dream to come to Canada. Created, Directed and Produced by Jaime Gianopoulos, Pickering College, student from Aurora.

New Award--- YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR FILM EXCELLENCE: "Drive," a sweet story of an 11 year old who organizes his thoughts in the back seat of a car. Created, Directed and Produced by Joseph Procopio, St. Thomas of Villinova, Woodbridge.

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2365 Bayview Avenue Toronto Ontario M2L 1A2 www.tsff.ca

New Award --- TSFF FOUNDERS' AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY: "A Promise Is a Promise," a moving film telling the story of two war torn boys and their dream to come to Canada. Created, Directed and Produced by Jaime Gianopoulos, Pickering College, student from Aurora.

New Award --- "On the Lot" PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: "Paper Boy," a casual meeting between a paper boy and his customer leads to personal reflection on the risks of alcohol use and heavy partying.

The festival also featured a ten special screenings of short films from around the world. Filmmakers Jason Charters and Alistair Leyland were on hand to present their films "Noise" (Genie nominee for best film) and "The Making of a Martyr" (BEST FILM in the United Nations Documentary Film Festival).

"We are thrilled with the response to the festival in this, our second year," commented Executive Producer Pat Macdonald. "Not only did we receive three times as many films than last year, but the power of the internet was able to attract films from the U.S., Asia and Europe, even though we had virtually no funds for marketing. This demonstrates the tremendous interest and passion of young people to express their ideas visually and dramatically, and our goal was to recognize these fine accomplishments."

Jamie MacRae, Faculty Advisor to the festival and Head of Media and Visual Arts at Crescent School, further explained the explosion in media studies, "This is about young people having a voice and tell stories about issues of importance to them. Film is the medium for youth today, as young people are increasingly exploring their world through the lens of a camera. This festival validates and celebrates their hard work."

Further Details: www.tsff.ca

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