



3^d Press Release
January 22, 2012

Prague Short Film Festival has a Winner – Main Prize and EUR 5 000 Go to France.

From January 18 to 22, 2012, Prague's Světozor cinema hosted the 7th **Prague Short Film Festival** organized by the team behind the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. The winners were announced on Saturday night.

Twenty films from fifteen countries participated in this year's **International Competition**. The jury that this year awarded the Main Prize with EUR 5 000 and not two, but three Special Mentions, included curator and programmer of the Dortmund | Cologne International Women's Film Festival **Sonja Hofman** from Germany, writer **Petra Soukupová**, Swedish filmmaker and cameraman **Gustav Danielsson**, programmer, founder and organizer of the London Short Film Festival **Philip Ilson** from the United Kingdom and designer and occasional actor **Aleš Najbrt**.

The **Main Prize** and EUR 5 000 went to **Aglaée** by French director **Rudi Rosenberg**. In the film, Benoit loses a bet on the school playground and is forced to ask his physically disabled classmate Aglaée on a date. The jury appreciated the film's accurate depiction of a generation offering magical moments, realistic view and unexpected humor supported by compelling performances of the lead actors and excellent supporting actors.

Rudi Rosenberg (1979) started his career as an actor, working with directors Olivier Dahan, Sam Gabarski, and Pascal Kané. After studying at the International School of Filmmaking and Broadcasting (EICAR) in Paris, he launched his career as a filmmaker. His graduation film, *13 years old* was screened at a score of French and international film festivals and won the first prize at the Arte Student Film Contest. His third film, *Aglaée* (2010), produced by Karé Productions, has already won recognition. He is currently making TV commercials and works on his first full-length feature.

Director **Jens Assur** took the first **Special Mention** for his film **Killing the Chickens to Scare the Monkeys** that in nine scenes taking place in China shows the far-reaching impact of the national policies on the life of one man. The jury noted the film's ethical message and an unexpected retrospective style of storytelling.

Jens Assur is a world-renowned photographer and filmmaker, whose writing and directing debut, *The Last Dog in Rwanda*, announced the arrival of a visionary new talent. The film drawing on his experiences of a war photographer won numerous international awards including the Grand Prix at Clermont Ferrand and Best Film at the Tribeca Film festival, as well as prizes at Sydney and Rome, among others. His latest photographic project, *Hunger*, consisting of five books, garnered critical acclaim when it was released in 2010. With his latest film, *Killing the Chickens to Scare the Monkeys*, he pushes the envelope even further. He currently divides his life between Sweden and Los Angeles.

The second **Special Mention** went to the British film **Until the River Runs Red** directed by Paul Wright. The film tells the story of sixteen-year-old Chloe travelling around with her parents searching for the mythical "Red River." As the story unfolds, the horrific truth of what brought them there seeps through. In its statement, the jury said the film was "an original and innovative piece of filmmaking, unusual film language, a poetry of magical moments that reveal a multi-layered story about a child's kidnapping."

Paul Wright (1981, Lower Largo, Scotland) graduated from the RSAMD in Glasgow where his first film, *Hikikomori*, won the Scottish BAFTA for Best New Work followed by a BAFTA nomination in 2007 for Best Short Film. The film also won Best Drama at the regional and national Royal Television Society awards. The same year, he was named as one of Screen International's 'Stars of Tomorrow'. In 2009, he made *Believe*, which won the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film at the Locarno Film Festival as well as major awards at Winterthur, Miami and Leeds International Film Festival. The film was also shown at the Edinburgh and London Film Festivals. In 2010, *Photos of God* was in competition for the Golden Bear at Berlinale shorts and *Until the River Runs Red* was also shown at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. He is based in London and is currently developing his first feature film *Warp*.

In a depart with tradition, this year's jury decided to award a third **Special Mention to Behrouz Bigdeli's To All My Friends** about two friends living in the suburbs who have always stuck together, but have to face a dilemma when one of them gets a chance to leave. The jury was captivated by the excellent direction and the original and sensitive portrayal.

Behrouz Bigdeli (1984, Teheran, Iran) immigrated with his family to Denmark when he was two years old. He grew up in Odense and from an early age was interested in music and film, which led him to writing scripts and making short films. His interest grew in high-school and after graduation he enrolled at the European Film College in Ebeltoft. He moved to Copenhagen in 2007 to study at the talent-developing alternative film school Super16 funded by Nordisk Film. He graduated in the fall of 2010.

This year's **Audience Award** went to the British film **Love at First Sight** by **Michael Davies** about a nursing home romance with John Hurt and Phyllida Law as the leads.

Michael Davies is a writer, producer and director of drama and documentary. Following a BA in drama from Manchester University, and an MA in film and television from Bristol, he began his career in BBC Television Features, working on a wide range of projects, including his critically acclaimed series, *Barnardo's Children*. His work as a freelance director is equally diverse, encompassing comedy observational documentaries *Going To Chelsea*, drama-documentaries *The Welsh Great Escape*, dramatized adventure *Snakemaster* and factual entertainment, including his RTS award winning *Oz & James Drink To Britain*. He has recently been enjoying success as a drama director. His first comedy short *What's 'virgin' mean?* has been screened at over fifty festivals around the world, winning six awards and attracting more than 1 250,000 hits on You Tube. He directed five episodes of the first series of the hit BBC children's drama *Tracy Beaker Returns*, which won a BAFTA. *Love At First Sight*, his latest film, was shortlisted for the Best Short Film Oscar.

The festival program will continue in Světozor until Sunday, January 22, 2012 with a special screening of the winning films. Tickets are available at Světozor's box office at CZK 70 per program block. See www.pragueshorts.com for more up-to-date information.

Organizer:

Film Servis Festival Karlovy Vary
info@pragueshorts.com

Press service (information, photos):
Ivana Svítková
731 407 392, svitkova@pragueshorts.com