



Press release

PRAGUE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL KNOWS ITS WINNER

From December 8th to December 11th, 2005, movie theaters Světozor, Lucerna and MAT hosted the 1st Prague Short Film Festival.

The international showcase of scripted short films was created by the organizers of Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, mainly to support an area of film that, despite enjoying a boom in many parts of the world, has remained largely hidden to the Czech public who have had little chance to see the medium's best works and meet their authors.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the increasing interest of viewers which grew day by day," said **Štefan Uhrík**, the festival's artistic director. *"We knew it would not be easy to introduce yet another festival in Prague. Short films don't have a long tradition here and that's why we were happy to see that even some internationally well-known Czech filmmakers found their way to the cinemas and were enthusiastic about the quality of not only the competition films but also those in the other sections. We are aware that this is a long distance run, but we believe, and the reaction of viewers confirms, that short films will find a permanent place in our capital,"* he added.

The focal point of the 1st Prague Short Film Festival was the international competition. These films, presented in four sections, were evaluated by an international jury comprised of the following members:

Johanna Ter Steege – actress

Cornelia Klauss – member, Oberhausen International Short Film Festival programming committee

Skúli Fr. Malmquist – producer

Ola Simonsson – director, composer

Jan Svěrák – director, producer

Jury verdict:

We did not see too many films that we unanimously agreed on, but there were a few and they were definitely worth it. They were well-rounded and captivating from beginning to end. We liked the stories they told. These films mesmerized us, and let us lose track of time. They were simply perfect.

Results of the 1st Prague Short Film Festival and jury's comments

Grand Prix prize:

(EUR 5,000)

Before Dawn - Hungary

Screenplay, directed by: Bálint Kenyeres

The jury appreciated this film's style, originality and clean forms. This film is close to perfect in technical style. We were fascinated by its depiction of tragic seconds in the existence of people seeking better lives. This film takes us along the fine line between hope, dreams, the future and failure.

Special Jury Mentions:

Melodrama – Poland

Screenplay, directed by: Filip Marczewski

This film captured that one moment in the life of a teenager exploring sexuality while still stuck in the no-man's land between being a child and an adult. The jury valued the realism and intensity with which the director presented that world.

The Magician – Iceland

Screenplay: Jón Atli Jónasson

Directed by: Reynir Lyngdal

We've entered the world of a young boy who has his own way of dealing with the cruel reality of his life. The film tells a story about the strength of imagination and fantasy – a harsh but beautiful story told with tenderness and sensibility.