

MEDFILM FESTIVAL 2008



MEDITERRANEAN CINEMA IN ROME NOVEMBER 7/16

14TH EDITION

OFFICIAL EVENT OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF **INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

- > Cinema Embassy
- > Palazzo delle Esposizioni
- > Teatro dei Dioscuri
- > Villa Medici

FINAL PRESS RELEASE: THE WINNERS

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

The International jury of the Official Competition of the 14th edition of the MedFilm Festival presided by the art director **Andrea Crisanti** and composed of the Albanian writer **Anilda Ibrahimi**, of the German film critic and journalist **Alfred Holighaus**, and of the Turkish director **Semih Kaplanoglu** assigned the *Eros and Psyche Award* and the recognitions *Special Mention* and *Artistic Expression*.

In assigning the awards, the jury took into consideration the great variety of selected films in the Official Competition, and some fundamental elements, such as creative dimension, expressive quality, the human, cultural and sociological richness of the films and the need to disseminate them.

The jury thus assigned the following awards:

***Eros and Psyche Award* (€ 5.000)**

to the best competing film

EID MILAD LAILA (LAILA'S BIRTHDAY)

by **Rashid Masharawi** (Palestine/Tunisia/Netherlands)

Rashid Masharawi takes us through the streets of Ramallah, on an ordinary, day-long journey in which different lives and their problems unravel. Without lingering on the conflicts and the walls which overshadow the city, Masharawi creates a story, devoid of any rhetoric, which unwinds modestly and, more eloquently than it shows, grasps the simple truths of the emotions portrayed. This great Palestinian author presents the public with a clean, neat piece of work, not lacking in irony, which opens on an ending of great hope.

Special Mention

SONBAHAR (AUTUNNO) by ÖZCAN ALPER

Absolutely praiseworthy for the splendid photography, the editing, the composition of the shots, the film weaves fragments of different realities and transmits the depth of the protagonists' feelings in a fresco rich with emotion. A debut piece which represents a promise for the future films of Ozcan Alper and gives great hope to all Cinema, especially that of the Mediterranean.

Artistic Expression Recognition

MAR NERO by Federico Bondi

Heir to the creativity of Italian cinema, this film manages to delicately and deeply sketch out the relationship between the old and new generations, in parallel with that between old and new Europe. The prize for Artistic Expression is awarded especially to the screenplay and to all the cast composed of excellent actors.

EURIMAGES COMPETITION

The International jury of the Eurimages Competition composed of the Italian actress **Valentina Carnelutti**, the director **Fariborz Kamkari** and the Director of the journalist **Marc Innaro**, in the spirit of principles behind the cultural project expressed by the co-production activity of the Council of Europe, thus assigned the *Eurimages Italy Award*:

Eurimages Italy Award (€ 3.000)

YUMURTA (EGG)

by Semih Kaplanoğlu (Turkey/Greece)

'Yumurta' is the quintessence of Semih Kaplanoglu's cinema, made up of silences, long shots and meditations which remind one of the human breathe. In the film the story of the poet Yusuf is told in a dry and honest language that underlines, with rare stylistic subtlety, a man's return to his roots and Turkey depicted in an evolutionary phase of its society.

NATIONAL COMPETITION

The international jury of the National Competition, composed of the journalists **Eric Joseph** (Libération), **Michael Braun** (Berliner TAZ) and **Dundar Kesapli** (SKY TURK) determined the winning film of the *Italy in Cinema Award*:

Italy in Cinema Award (€ 2.000)

MACHAN by Uberto Pasolini

The director manages, in an intense and amusing way, to tell a story of immigration without stereotypes or falling into easy clichés. It makes one reflect on the theme the change in identity as a result of emigration. The whole story is told with great acumen and irony.

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INTERNATIONAL SHORT COMPETITION

The international jury of the short film competition, presided by the author and director **Angelo Loy** and composed of 8 students graduating from the National Cinema schools of European and Mediterranean countries and of 8 inmates from the Civitavecchia penitentiary, has assigned the *Methexis Award*, which rewards short works dedicated to the theme of intercultural dialogue. The *Methexis Award* was assigned during the plenary meeting of the two branches of the International jury, which took place in the Civitavecchia penitentiary.

Methexis Award (€ 2000)
SZALONTÜDÖ (TRIBE AND ONIONS)
by Márton Szirmai (Hungary)

We have appreciated the film story, the actors performance and the film direction. An incisive description that skilfully reach every audience's heart through a daily common action description from which surfaces the theme of a big social value: THE PREJUDICE.

In the short films section the Kodak Award to the best Italian short film was also assigned:

Kodak Award (1.500 € of Kodak film print)
BAB EL SAMAH (DOOR OF FORGIVENESS) by Francesco Sperandeo

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

The International jury of Documentary films composed of the photographer and film-maker **Letizia Battaglia** and of the video artist **Intishal al Timimi** has assigned the *Open Eyes Award* and a Special Mention.

Open Eyes Award (1.500 € of film print)
AFGHAN MUSCLES
by Andreas MM. Dalsgaard (Denmark)

The story of the Afghan boys who devote their life to the body building is told and constructed with a remarkable "gentleness" even if the "brawn" theme. the director thanks to his exceptional ability creates a story with a "fiction" style that splendidly works with the characters that almost become symbols of the life that everybody knows.

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