

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THE CANADIAN FILM CENTRE'S WORLDWIDE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS 10 AWARDS AND \$125, 000 IN CASH AND PRIZES

TORONTO, June 19th, 2005 - The **Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival** proudly presented **10 awards** and **\$125, 000** in cash and prizes to this year's top filmmakers at the **2005 WSFF Awards Picnic**. Offering one of the largest prize packages for short film in the world, the **WSFF** honoured exceptional creators in the presence of over 300 industry delegates and filmmakers from around the globe.

Accredited by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences®**, the **WSFF's** Canadian award winners are eligible for the **Genie Awards**, and winners of the **Best Live-Action Short** and **Best Animated Short** are eligible for the **Academy Awards®**. The festival's reputation for programming precedes itself, screening five shorts in 2004 that went on to be nominated for **Academy Awards®**; two of which won: **RYAN** and **WASP**.

Shane Smith, Artistic Director of the **WSFF** enthused, "This has been an extraordinary year for the festival, reflected in a substantial increase in submissions, attendance and industry support. The **Worldwide Short Film Festival** truly has become the premier venue for the exhibition and promotion of short film in North America."

The **WSFF** jury, including last year's top winner and Canadian **Oscar® Winner**, **Chris Landreth**, meticulously selected the following films from a superb collection of more than 230 shorts, hailing from over 30 countries around the world.

The festival's top cash prize, and one of this year's new additions; the coveted **Jameson Award for Best Canadian Short Film**, was awarded to **Pjotr Sapegin** with a cheque for **6000€** (Over \$9000 CDN), for the animated Second World War tale, **THROUGH MY THICK GLASSES** (Quebec/Norway). This is the first North American presentation of the prestigious **Jameson Award**, which garners the film automatic screening rights at most participating film festivals next year.

Open to all shorts screening at the **WSFF**, this year's festival goers voted for **Alvaro Pastor's** strikingly original **INVULNERABLE** (Spain), to win the popular **MINI Audience Choice Award** worth \$5000 in cash. **MINI**, the **WSFF's** official automobile sponsor, announced the winner at the packed Award-Winners Screening on Sunday evening.

Director **Jeffrey St. Jules** took home The **Jackson-Triggs Award for Best Emerging Canadian Filmmaker** for the sinful pioneer tale **THE SADNESS OF JOHNSON JOE JANGLES** (Ontario). An **Honourable Mention** went to **Richie Mehta** for the accomplished **AMAL** (Ontario/India).

The **C.O.R.E. Digital Pictures Award for Best Animated Short** went to Australia's **Anthony Lucas** for the stunning animated masterpiece **THE MYSTERIOUS GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORATIONS OF JASPER MORELLO**, garnering him \$5000 in cash and eligibility for the 2006 **Academy Awards®**.

Best Live-Action Short was captured by Director **Heiko Hahn** for the heartbreaking **BEFORE I GO** (Germany); and an **Honourable Mention** was bestowed upon director **Alvaro Pastor** for the popular drama **INVULNERABLE** (Spain). **Heiko Hahn** also earned **Academy Award®** eligibility and a **Sony** digital video camcorder for this honour.

The \$5000 **Kodak Award for Best Cinematography in a Canadian Short** was presented to director **James Cooper** and cinematographer **Adam Marsden** for the sumptuous **LEPIDULTUROUS** (Ontario). **Honourable Mention** went to **Jordan Christianson** for the hapless hoser comedy **TOMORROW DOESN'T LOOK GOOD EITHER** (British Columbia).

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The **Best Documentary Short** honour, and a **Sony** digital video camcorder, was awarded to Director **Talmage Cooley** for the brilliantly revealing doc, **DIMMER** (USA). An **Honourable Mention** was given to directors **Iya Myslytska** and **Valentyn Vasyanovych** for their soul-stirring documentary, **AGAINST THE SUN (PROTY SONTSYA)** (Ukraine).

The **Best Experimental Short** title, along with a **Sony** digital video camcorder went to **Guy Roland** for the vividly creative **SPACER** (British Columbia), with an **Honourable Mention** going to Director **Kara Blake** for the gorgeous, **JULY'S WET DREAM** (Quebec).

A **Special Jury Prize for Daring Filmmaking** was created to honour the hauntingly powerful **THE OTHER AMERICAN DREAM** (Mexico), by director **Enrique Arroyo**.

And finally, the **Screenplay Giveaway Award** was presented to **Naoko Kumagai**, contributing a whopping package of goods and services worth over **\$90,000** in order to make her script a reality. **Kumagai's** award includes: tape to film transfer at **Cinebyte Imaging**, post production services at **Deluxe Laboratories** and studio rental from **@Wallace Studios**. This package also includes: film stock from **Kodak**, camera rental from **Panavision**, script consultation courtesy of **The Development House**, a private screening at **Famous Players**, two programming passes to **WIFT-T** and legal advice from **Heenan Blaikie Barristers and Solicitors**.

The **Don Haig Award** was also presented at the **Worldwide Short Film Festival's** Awards Picnic to **Rob Stefaniuk** for his first feature, **PHIL THE ALIEN**. For more info please visit www.donhaig.org.

About the Worldwide Short Film Festival

Now in its 11th year, the **Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival** is the premier venue for the exhibition and promotion of short film in North America. Taking place from **June 14th to 19th, 2005**, the **WSFF** presents over 230 films from more than 30 countries. The **WSFF Short Films, BIG IDEAS Symposium** offers renowned professional development, while the **Universal Studios Business Centre** is home to the largest short film marketplace in North America. For more information visit: www.worldwideshortfilmfest.com.

- 30 -

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Festival founded by Brenda Sherwood