



2014 MIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

BOYHOOD WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE FILM

JALANAN WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY

MELBOURNE, 20 August 2014 – The 63rd Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) ended on 17 August after 17 days screening 342 films over 522 sessions from 57 countries in 54 different languages, including 28 world premieres and 56 Australian films. With a 13% increase in screenings, it was the biggest MIFF ever.

“With so many new venues and the intensive and highly successful inaugural Critics Campus, among other new elements, MIFF 2014 felt fresh and momentous. We are thrilled that audiences responded so enthusiastically to the program, as evidenced by so many sell-out sessions and discussion and debate on the street,” said MIFF Artistic Director Michelle Carey.

Other highlights of the 2014 MIFF included:

- Three gala screenings featuring Australian premieres of *Predestination* and *Felony* and the world premiere of *Cut Snake*, supported by the MIFF Premiere Fund
- The inaugural MIFF Critics Campus, where eight of Australia's emerging film critics participated in an intensive five-day lab honing their skills in a live festival setting, with mentoring by local and international film critics including the USA's Daniel Kasman (*MUBI*), USA-based Australian David Rooney (*The Hollywood Reporter*) and Indian freelancer Meenakshi Shedde
- Next Gen, MIFF's all ages film program, capping off its most successful year-to-date with sold-out screenings of the MIFF Premiere Fund-supported *Paper Planes*, which received its world premiere at the Kids' Gala
- An extensive Talking Pictures program featuring contributions by 85 panellists across 19 events
- More than 90 sessions presented with an intro and/or Q&A by festival guests

The closely contested People's Choice Awards were tallied online with the results for Top 10 Feature Films and Documentaries as follows:

Feature Films

1. *Boyhood*
2. *Obvious Child*
3. *Housebound*
4. *Mommy*
5. *What We Do in the Shadows*
6. *Fantail*
7. *Starred Up*
8. *In Order of Disappearance*
9. *Sorcerer*
10. *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*

Documentaries

1. *Jalanan*
2. *Keep on Keepin On*
3. *Virunga*
4. *The Salt of the Earth*
5. *German Concentration Camps Factual Survey*
6. *The Case Against 8*
7. *Dior and I*
8. *Don't Throw Stones*
9. *My Name is Salt*
10. *I am Big Bird: The Carroll Spinney Story*



MIFF's highly regarded short film competition, the 53rd Shorts Awards, were awarded across seven categories as follows:

City of Melbourne Grand Prix for Best Short Film

The Queen

Director/Producer – Manuel Abramovich

Film Victoria Erwin Rado Award for Best Australian Short Film

Grey Bull

Director – Eddy Bell

Producer – Khoby Rowe

Swinburne Award for Emerging Australian Filmmaker

Ben Briand

For – *Blood Pulls a Gun*

Cinema Nova Award for Best Fiction Short Film

Océan

Director – Emmanuel Laborie

Producers – Karine Blanc and Michel Tavares

SAE Award for Best Animation Short Film

Symphony no. 42

Director – Réka Bucsi

Producer – József Fülöp

Melbourne International Film Festival Award for Best Documentary Short Film

The Last Days of Peter Bergmann

Director – Ciaran Cassidy

Producer – Morgan Bushe

Melbourne International Film Festival Award for Best Experimental Short Film

The Dark, Krystle

Director/Producer – Michael Robinson

Preparations are underway for the 2015 MIFF with festival dates to be announced soon.

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