PRESS RELEASE

CLOSING AND AWARDS LIST OF THE 14th edition of the FIFDH

Geneva, March 12th, 2016 | Embargo until March 12th at 9 pm

FIFDH has just announced its awards after a special edition marked by exceptional enthusiasm and mobilization

OPEN THE DEBATE! This slogan carried the 14th edition of the International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), which has established itself as the most important event dedicated to cinema and human rights worldwide. From March 4th to 13th, 2016, in 37 locations in Greater Geneva, 210 filmmakers and international personalities presented their films, participated in high level public debates parallel to the UN Human Rights Council and met a passionate audience at sold-out sessions.

Human rights defenders and artists to appointment

A great recognition for the Festival, **Dr. Mukwege** was present for the debate "DRC: Breaking the Silence. Women Demand Justice" at the Comédie de Genève and was received by the High Commissioner **Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein** to the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations.

Some highlights of this edition: **Roberto Scarpinato**, Attorney General at the public prosecutor's department of Palermo, called for the opening of an International Criminal Tribunal for Mexico. In addition, the debates that brought together **Zhanna Nemtsova**, a year after the assassination of her father, Russian opposition leader **Boris Nemtsov**, as well as **Guy Ryder** the Director-General of the ILO, the Geneva-based doctor **Didier Pittet**, the young rapper **Sonita Alizadeh** or still, **Alain Bauer** and **Deeyah Khan** during the debate on terrorism. Not to mention the interventions by Skype of **Robert Badinter**, **Vandana Shiva**, **Ensaf Haidar** (wife of **Raif Badawi**) and the chinese **Hooligan Sparrow**.

This year, the FIFDH programmed 46 documentaries and fiction films. It was also interested in funding for documentary films with the organization of a Window to Good Pitch with Britdoc and the Ford Foundation. The filmmaker **Brillante Mendoza** gave an exceptional Masterclass. **Nabil Ayouch**, **Mai Masri**, **Joachim Lafosse**, **Nanfu Wang**, **Hemal Trivedi**, **Amos Gitai** and **Gael Garcia Bernal** shared their passion for cinema, the necessity to denounce human rights abuses and their activism, joined by Swiss filmmakers **Frédéric Choffat**, **Jean-Cosme Delaloye** and **Richard Dindo**, all co-produced by the RTS.

As part of the educational program, 2,224 students and 188 teachers attended sessions with 41 special guests.

A booming festival

The Festival has established **40 new partnerships** such as the Ford Foundation, the Berne Declaration, the ISHR, the Cinémathèque suisse, the HEAD – Geneva and the Association des Communes genevoises.

To open the debate, the FIFDH went outside its walls to meet new audiences. Backed by **18 municipalities**, it proposed screenings, discussions and meetings in **37 locations**. The collective centers of the General Hospice at the Maison de la Paix, passing by CERN, the Comédie de Genève and the International Museum of the Red Cross, this desire to bring together the public was rewarded with full rooms and quality debates.

A festival more connected than ever

The festival broadcasted all the debates live on its Youtube channel, which were also Tweeted live. The Festival Facebook page has reached 250,000 people in a week and exceeded 10,000 likes. A new mobile application and Instagram platform was successfully launched.

Sunday, March 13th

On Sunday, March 13th, the last day of the Festival, a debate is offered on Sports and Human Rights, which will include the exceptional presence of **Fani Misailidi, Head of Public Affairs of FIFA**. The last debate will deal with Eritrea. **Amos Gitai** will present his film *Le dernier jour d'Yitzakh Rabin* in Geneva at the Cinémathèque suisse.

The public will have the opportunity to see or review the award-winning films at the Grütli Cinema Sunday, March 13th.

This 14th edition is dedicated to the artist Leila Alaoui, to whom the festival paid tribute in the presence of Christine Alaoui, her mother, and Nabil Canaan, her fiancé, under the notes of *We Shall Overcome*, performed *a cappella* by Barbara Hendricks.

OFFICIAL AWARDS LIST

Creative documentary Section

The Jury for the international creative documentaries was chaired by **Barbara Hendricks** alongside **Plantu**, **Philippe Djian**, **Ece Temelkuran** and **Daniel Schweizer**.

GENEVA GRAND PRIX (10'000.-)
Offered by the Canton and City of Geneva

AMONG THE BELIEVERS by Hemal Trivedi et Mohammed Ali Naqvi

A brave documentary that addresses the issue of religious fundamentalism that threatens Pakistani society. A film that addresses the complexity of this issue and shows the gap between these two worlds. Without judging, it leaves room for the viewer to better understand the complexity of this society that is divided between jihad and democracy.
A film about two Islam, the moderate and the radical that divides Pakistan and its consequences.

PRIZE OF GILDA VIEIRA DE MELLO IN TRIBUTE TO HER SON SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (CHF 5'000)

Offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation

HOOLIGAN SPARROW by Nanfu Wang

The film of an activist who with great courage and conviction follows the protagonists who symbolize resistance to impunity. An engaged and inventive documentary that closely follows Sparrow, an admirable woman who embodies one of the many faces of the struggle for human rights in China.

SPECIAL JURY PRIZE (CHF 3'000)

Offered by the Barbara Hendricks Foundation for Peace and Reconciliation

A SYRIAN LOVE STORY by Sean McAllister

The little story in a great history. A grasping film that follows a family, a couple in exodus. Immersed, between confidence and testimony, the director filmed this political and family chronicle over the course of five years. A respectful approach to its protagonists: a couple who gradually unravels because of the war.

YOUNG JURY PRIZE (CHF 500)

Offered by the Fondation Eduki

HOOLIGAN SPARROW by Nanfu Wang

This film justly marries form and content. It plunged us into a battle against oppression and injustice that will remain with us for a long time. Despite limited resources, this documentary presents rare cinematic qualities and brings beauty where there is none.
Jury: Leo Bastianelli, Anjali Bhundia, Charlotte Burnand, Aline Favre, Fabian Menor, Asma Lghazaoui

Fiction and human rights Section

The International Jury Fiction and Human Rights chaired by Nabil Ayouch, alongside Marcela Zamora Chamorro, Aude Py and Philippe Cottier.

GRAND PRIZE FOR FICTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS (CHF 10'000)

Offered by the Hélène et Victor Barbour Fondation

ZVIZDAN (The High Sun) by Dalibor Matanic

The jury was touched by the universal theme explored in the film. The author has a very original way of talking about hatred and the means to overcome it. The choice to have actors play multiple roles is both intriguing and compelling, and causes a very successful mise en abyme. The jury was particularly sensitive to the balkan anchoring of the story. The quality of directing is undeniable, as well as the interpretation of the actors, especially the actress who plays the different roles of women, Tihana Lazovic.

Special Mention

EXPERIMENTER by Michael Almereyda

The jury felt the need to point out a special mention to the extreme importance of the subject of Michael Almereyda's film. What it reveals, despite a plot situated in the sixties, is undeniably contemporary and very subtly questions the foundations of human nature. The aesthetic decisions and the creative aspect of the film wowed the jury.

YOUNG JURY PRIZE (CHF 500)

Offered by Peace Brigades International

3000 NIGHTS by Mai Masri

The youth jury for fiction films chose to reward a film full of poetry despite the violence of the situation that it denounces. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is reflected in a microcosm, in a women's prison. With a raw and spontaneous camera work, the director reveals to us with force a very current problem and encourages us to refuse to submit to the abuse of an authoritarian and unjust system. In the face of human rights violations, the message is clear: solidarity, resistance!
Jury: Victor Delétraz, Ceylin Gercekci, Luana Iarocci, Dylan Kummli, Samantha Morris, Emma Tjepkema

OMCT Section

Awarded by the Jury of the OMCT attributed to a filmmaker whose film reflects his commitment to human rights, in order to support the writing of his or her next film.

GRAND PRIZE OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE (OMCT) (CHF 5'000)

VOYAGE EN BARBARIE by Delphine Deloget et Cécile Allegra

This film gives a voice for the first time to the nearly 50,000 Eritrean migrants who were in the Sinai desert who suffered abuse for purely economic purposes – crimes that have been tolerated for a longtime by the Egyptian government. It talks about migration, a central challenge of this decade that many see as a societal threat. The use of torture (and other forms of abuse and slavery) on migrants is widespread and poorly documented. It occurs not only in Sinai but also in Libya and elsewhere on the routes most frequently used by migrants. It is also a hopeful film that shows the courage and the incredible resilience of survivors and people working remotely to help them flee, to end the impunity and to obtain redress.

JURY PRIZE OF THE CENTRE DE DÉTENTION DE LA CLAIRIÈRE

SPARTIATES by Nicolas Wadimoff

A documentary that follows the life of an educator who tirelessly fights with the desire to help young people, despite the fact that there is no way. He helps men and women, black and white, young and old. We also liked the images and the action scenes, when we hear the breathing of the character.

DIRECTION

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