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SXSW FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2012 AWARD WINNERS

Austin, Texas – March 13, 2012 – Jury and Audience Award-winners of the 2012 South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Conference and Festival were announced tonight at the Festival's Awards Ceremony, presented by Veam and hosted by comedian and actor Doug Benson. The Awards took place at the Vimeo Theater in Austin, Texas. Feature Films receiving Jury Awards were selected from the Narrative Feature and Documentary Feature Competition categories. Films in these categories, as well as all feature categories, with the exception of Special Events, were also eligible for 2012 SXSW Film Festival Audience Awards. Only Narrative and Documentary Feature Audience Awards were announced tonight. Narrative Spotlight, Documentary Spotlight, Emerging Visions, Midnighters, 24 Beats Per Second, SXGlobal and Festival Favorites Audience Awards will be announced separately on Saturday, March 17, with the Headliner Audience Award to follow on Monday, March 19, 2012. SXSW continues showing films through Saturday, March 17, details can be found at www.sxsw.com/film.

SXSW also announced the Jury Award-winners in Shorts Filmmaking and winners of SXSW Film Design Awards Presented by iStockphoto, as well as Special Awards, including the Louis Black "Lone Star" Award, the SXSW Chicken & Egg Emergent Narrative Woman Director Award and the SXSW Wholphin Award. New for 2012, Jury Awards will be handed out for Short films in the SXGlobal and Midnight Shorts sections. Audience Award results for all categories were certified by the accounting firm of Maxwell Locke & Ritter.

"It's been amazing this year to hear over and over again about the high range of quality across the board," said Janet Pierson, Film Conference and Festival Producer. "I know I'm always going on about the great variety of our program, but this year it seems to have been embraced in even wider measure and it's very exciting. SXSW is a special moment for the creative community to both inspire and be inspired. We appreciate the audience and jury engagement and recognition for these highlighted titles."

The 2012 SXSW Film Festival Juries consisted of:

Narrative Feature Competition: Lisa Hintelmann, J. Hoberman, Jane Schoettle

Documentary Feature Competition: David Courier, Philipp Engelhorn, Catherine Shoard

Narrative Shorts: Susan Arosteguy, Mark Elijah Rosenberg, Thuy Tran

Documentary Shorts: Anna Higgs, Gerald Peary, Basil Tsiokos

SXGlobal Shorts: Margaret Brown, Chale Nafus, Linda O. Olszewski

Animated Shorts: Brad Graeber, Brad Phillips, Bryan Pudder

Midnight Shorts: Nate Bolotin, Tim League, Ti West

Music Videos: Jim Eno, John T. Kunz, Mark Woollen

Texas Shorts: Karim Ahmad, Jennifer Cochis, Anderson Le

Texas High School Shorts: Marcy Garriott, Emily Hagins, Bart Weiss

Title Sequence Design: Ian Albinson, Jenny Lee, Ben Radatz, Gareth Smith, Kurt Volk

Poster Design: Craig Crutchfield, Tim League, James Leal-Valias, Charlie Loft, Danny Parker

Louis Black "Lone Star": Elizabeth Avellán, Christy Lemire, Ron Mann

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The 2012 SXSW Film Festival hosted a total of 132 features, consisting of 74 World Premieres, 17 North American Premieres and 11 U.S. Premieres, with 58 films from first-time directors. 138 shorts will screen as part of 12 overall shorts programs. The nearly 275 films were selected from a record number of overall submissions, over 5,300, comprised of approximately 2,000 features and 3,300 shorts. This was a 7% increase over 2011 despite moving submission deadlines a month earlier than in previous years.

The 2012 SXSW Film Festival Award Winners:

Feature Film Jury Awards

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

Grand Jury Winner: *Beware of Mr. Baker*

Director: Jay Bulger

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Grand Jury Winner: *Gimme The Loot*

Director: Adam Leon

Special Jury Recognition for Performance:

Jamie Chung – *Eden*

Besedka Johnson – *Starlet*

Nico Stone – *Booster*

Feature Film Audience Awards

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

Winner: *Bay of All Saints*

Director: Annie Eastman

NARRATIVE FEATURE

Winner: *Eden*

Director: Megan Griffiths

****Audience Awards for Narrative Spotlight, Documentary Spotlight, Emerging Visions, Midnighters, 24 Beats Per Second, SXGlobal and Festival Favorites sections will be announced on Saturday, March 17. The Headliner Audience Award will follow on Monday, March 19, 2012.***

Short Film Jury Awards

NARRATIVE SHORTS

Winner: *The Chair*

Director: Grainger David

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Winner: *CatCam*

Director: Seth Keal

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MIDNIGHT SHORTS

Winner: *Don't Hug Me I'm Scared*

Directors: Rebecca Sloan & Joseph Pelling

SXGLOBAL SHORTS

Winner: *The Perfect Fit*

Director: Tali Yankelevich

ANIMATED SHORTS

Winner: *(notes on) biology*

Director: Danny Madden

MUSIC VIDEOS

Winner: Battles, "My Machines"

Director: DANIELS

TEXAS SHORTS

Winner: *Spark*

Director: Annie Silverstein

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL SHORTS

Winner: *Boom*

Director: Daniel Matyas & Brian Broder

SXSW Film Design Awards presented by iStockphoto

EXCELLENCE IN POSTER DESIGN

Winner: *Man & Gun*

Designer: Justin Cox

Special Jury Recognition: *Pitch Black Heist*

Designer: Andrew Cranston

Audience Award Winner: *The Maker*

Designer: Christopher Kezelos

EXCELLENCE IN TITLE DESIGN

Winner: *Les Bleus de Ramville*

Designer: Jay Bond, Oily Film Company Inc.

Special Jury Recognition: *X-Men: First Class*

Designer: Simon Clowes, Prologue Films

Audience Award Winner: *Bunraku*

Designer: Guilherme Marcondes, Hornet Inc.

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SXSW Special Awards

SXSW WHOLPHIN AWARD

Winner: *The Black Balloon*

Director: Benny Safdie & Josh Safdie

SXSW CHICKEN & EGG EMERGENT NARRATIVE WOMAN DIRECTOR AWARD

Winners: Megan Griffiths for *Eden* and Amy Seimetz for *Sun Don't Shine*

LOUIS BLACK "LONE STAR" AWARD

Winner: *Bernie*

Director: Richard Linklater

Special Jury Recognition: *Trash Dance*

Director: Andrew Garrison

KAREN SCHMEER FILM EDITING FELLOWSHIP

Presented to: Lindsay Utz

About SXSW Film

The SXSW® Film Conference and Festival is a uniquely creative environment featuring the dynamic convergence of talent, smart audiences and industry heavyweights. A hotbed of discovery and interactivity, the event offers invaluable networking opportunities and immersion into the art and business of the rapidly evolving world of independent film.

The Film Conference buzzes as world-class speakers, creative minds, and notable mentors tackle the latest filmmaking trends amidst the unmatched social atmosphere of the SXSW experience. Simultaneously, the internationally acclaimed, nine-day Festival celebrates raw innovation and emerging talent, featuring a truly diverse program that includes provocative documentaries, subversive comedies, DIY narratives, genre standouts and more. SXSW Film is proud to be an official qualifying festival for the Academy Awards Short Film competition. The Best Narrative Short and Best Animated Short winners become eligible for the Academy Awards. For more information, visit <http://www.sxsw.com/film>.

2012 Festival Sponsors

The SXSW Film Conference and Festival is sponsored by Miller Lite, Chevrolet, IFC, Brisk, PepsiCO, Monster Energy, Freecreditscore.com, Esurance, AT&T, Dell and The Austin Chronicle.

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