

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2017 AWARD WINNERS

PRESENTED MARCH 18 AT SVA THEATRE

2017 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS:

Grand Prize Feature – *SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS*, Philippa Lowthorpe (UK)

Grand Prize Short – *HEADS TOGETHER*, Job, Joris, & Marieke (Netherlands)

2017 AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS:

Ages 3-6 – *TIGER*, Kariem Saleh (Germany)

Ages 5-10 – *STONE SOUP*, Clementine Robach (France)

Ages 8-14 – *SING*, Kristóf Deák (Hungary)

Ages 12-17 – *WELCOME TO MY LIFE*, Elizabeth Ito (USA)

Grown-ups Award (ages 18+) – *RICEBALLS*, Shingo Usami (Australia)

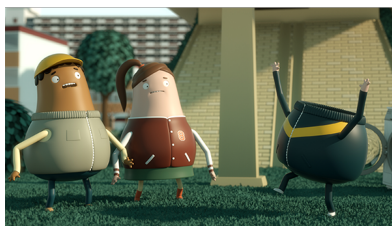
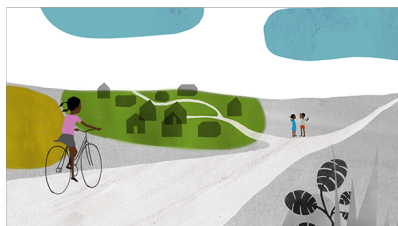
2017 JURY AWARD WINNERS:

Best Animated Short – *WHEN I HEAR THE BIRDS SING*, Trine Habbjorg (Norway)

Best Live Action Short, Narrative – *FRENCH*, Josza Anjembe (France)

Best Live Action Short, Documentary – *FREE LIKE THE BIRDS*, Paola Mendoza (USA)

March 20, 2017 – New York, NY – After presenting four weekends of international films for ages 3-18, **New York Int'l Children's Film Festival (NYICFF)** celebrated the conclusion of its 20th anniversary event with the presentation of the 2017 Festival Awards and a screening of the best short films from this year's lineup.



NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Determined by voting from audience members who are ages 18 and younger, Grand Prize Awards were presented to one short film and one feature film. ***Heads Together*** (Netherlands), directed by Oscar® nominated filmmakers Job, Joris, and Marieke, was awarded the Grand Prize for short film. The directors are among the 14 filmmakers or filmmaking teams that have screened films in the Festival before. *Heads Together* played in the Festival's "Short Films Two" program.

The Grand Prize Award for a feature film was presented to ***Swallows and Amazons*** (UK), directed by Philippa Lowthorpe. Based on the beloved English novels by Arthur Ransome, the film follows the Walker siblings as they set off on a sailing adventure in 1930s Lake District, England.

Winners of the Festival's three juried prizes were chosen by the Festival's board of jurors: John Canemaker, Sofia Coppola, Geena Davis, Lynne McVeigh, Matthew Modine, Richard Peña, James Schamus, Uma Thurman, Christine Vachon, Gus Van Sant, Taika Waititi, Jeffrey Wright, and Nadine Zylstra. The Jury Award for Best Animated Short was presented to ***When I Hear the Birds Sing*** (Norway) by Trine Hbjorg from the Festival's "Short Films Three" program, while the Jury Award for Best Live Action Short, Narrative was presented to ***French*** (France), by Josza Anjembe, from the same program. ***Free Like the Birds*** (USA), by Paola Mendoza, was awarded the Jury Award for Best Live Action Short, Documentary.

Audience awards, presented to short films, were determined by the votes of audience members in four different age ranges. A complete list of recipients follows:

Audience Award, ages 3-6: ***Tiger*** (Germany), Animation, Kariem Saleh; New York Premiere, "Shorts for Tots"

Audience Award, ages 5-10: ***Stone Soup*** (France/Belgium), Animation, Clementine Robach; New York Premiere, "Short Films One"

Audience Award, ages 8-14: ***Sing*** (Hungary), Live Action, Kristóf Deák; New York Premiere, "Girls' POV Shorts"

Audience Award, ages 12-17: ***Welcome to My Life*** (USA), Animation, Elizabeth Ito; New York Premiere, "Short Films Three"

Grown-Ups Award, ages 18+: ***Riceballs*** (Australia), Live Action, Shingo Usami; "Short Films One"

New York International Children's Film Festival ran from February 24 through March 19, 2017. The Festival's 20th anniversary event included 16 feature films including the 2017 Oscar® nominated *My Life as a Zucchini* (Best Animated Feature), a preview of DisneyNature's *Born in China*, a retrospective screening of one of Isao Takahata and Hayao Miyazaki's earliest collaborations, *Panda! Go Panda!*, and the 2017 Oscar® winning film *Sing* (Best Live Action Short). In addition to films, the Festival presented *Animators All Around*, a panel on the art of animation featuring Mark Osborne (*The Little Prince*), Elizabeth Ito (2017 Audience Award winner *Welcome to My Life*), and Rawan Rahim (2016 Festival short *Lilou*). The Festival hosted over 25 visiting international filmmakers and 25,000 attendees.

ABOUT NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

Distinguished by its unique mission and high-caliber programming, New York International Children's Film Festival was founded in 1997 to support the creation and dissemination of thoughtful, provocative, and intelligent film for children and teens ages 3-18. Celebrating its 20th year in 2017, the flagship New York City Festival takes place February 24-March 19, and has grown

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

from one weekend of films into the largest film festival for children and teens in North America. Presenting consistently sold-out screenings for the general public and weekday screenings for school groups throughout New York City over the course of four weeks at venues throughout the city, the Festival's rich and dynamic film program — drawn from roughly 2,500 international submissions — boasts approximately 100 short and feature films, filmmaker Q&As, retrospective programs, parties, premieres, audience voting, and a Closing Night celebration. The Festival is an Academy Award® qualifying festival, one of only four film festivals in New York State — and only two children's film festivals in the country — to hold that honor with the Festival's esteemed jury selecting the qualifying films. The Festival experience cultivates an appreciation for the arts, encourages active, discerning viewing, and stimulates lively discussion among peers, families, and the film community. In addition to presenting the annual event, New York International Children's Film Festival is a multifaceted arts organization that offers year-round engagement, including a nationwide touring program, filmmaking camps, and Film-Ed educational field trips for public and private schools, with free or reduced cost school programs offering equal access to the art of film for all. The Festival is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization.