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THE OVERLOOK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THEIR FIRST YEAR JURIED AND AUDIENCE AWARDS

(PORTLAND, OR) – As its inaugural run comes to a close, the Overlook Film Festival has the great pleasure of announcing its first year juried and audience awards. Culled from a stellar lineup of 39 films (22 features and 17 short films from 16 countries), the festival's features and short film juries deliberated over the course of the event, publicly revealing the winning selections at the special closing night secret screening of A24's *IT COMES AT NIGHT*.

The features jury consisted of Eric Kohn (Indiewire), Alicia Malone (Fandango), and Sam Zimmerman (Shudder). The jurors chose to honor director Ben Young's *HOUNDS OF LOVE* as the Best Feature at the festival stating, "HOUNDS OF LOVE blew us away with its brilliant combination of gripping horror conventions and kitchen sink realism. Rich with tense performances and complex insight into working class struggles, it's all the more impressive because it's a first feature. We're going to be talking about the movie – and this filmmaker – for a long time."

Additionally, the jurors highlighted Brandon Christensen's *STILL/BORN*, giving it the festival's Scariest Feature Award. They noted that, "STILL/BORN freaked us all out in the best way possible. As a worthy entry in the classic sub genre of pregnancy horror stretching back to *ROSEMARY'S BABY*, it combines visceral chills and a creepy atmosphere into a perfectly terrifying package."

Filmmaker Rodney Ascher (*ROOM 237*), critic Meredith Borders (*Birth. Movies. Death.*), and Toronto International Film Festival Midnight Madness programmer Peter Kuplowsky oversaw the jurying duties for the short film selections at this year's festival. After much deliberation, the jury returned with the following statement:

"Out of a very strong programming lineup, the 2017 Overlook Film Festival shorts jury found it no easy task to choose a best of the fest. But ultimately, we were in agreement about two films in particular. We're thrilled to award Robin Comisar's singular and extremely effective *GREAT CHOICE* the prize of best short film, with an honorable mention going to Remi Weekes' *THE TICKLE MONSTER* for scariest short."

The Overlook Film Festival's audience chose *HOUNDS OF LOVE* as the recipient of this year's Audience Award for Best Feature. Among the short films programmed at the festival, the audience overwhelmingly voted for Damien LeVeck's *THE CLEANSING HOUR* as the Best Short Film.

A major festival highlight included the announcement by Jason Blum and Akiva Goldsman, during the presentation of the festival's Visionary Award to Blumhouse Productions on Opening Night, that Blumhouse and Goldsman would collaborate next on a re-envisioned take on Stephen King's *FIRESTARTER*, one that would "go back to the novel" for inspiration.

Discussing his experience at the very first Overlook Film Festival, Master of Horror honoree Roger Corman said, "not only was the Overlook Film Festival a wonderful experience and my discussion with Mick Garris one of the best I've ever been involved in, but I was especially pleased with the axe given to me as a trophy."

To keep up to date with The Overlook Film Festival, visit <http://www.overlookfilmfest.com/>. Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OverlookFilmFestival/>) and on Twitter (@TheOverlookFest) and Instagram (@OverlookFilmFest) and join the conversation using the hashtag #OverlookFilmFest

Film stills and festival artwork available to download at <http://www.overlookfilmfest.com/press/>

The Overlook Film Festival

The Overlook Film Festival is a 4-day celebration of horror that runs from April 24 - 30, 2017 at the historic Timberline Lodge located in Mt. Hood, Oregon, featured in Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece THE SHINING as the location of the infamous Overlook Hotel. Presenting superior film programming with an expanded focus on experiential events, the festival showcases exciting work in new and classic horror cinema alongside the latest in interactive and live shows for a fully immersive weekend. As a summer camp for genre fans, The Overlook is a community event bringing the best of horror in all its forms to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience within an intimate and inspirational environment.

The Overlook Film Festival is sponsored by IFC Midnight, Shudder, Syfy, Skybound, Daily Dead, and FrightDay. Media partners: ScreenAnarchy, Bloody Disgusting, Birth.Movies.Death.

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