



sydneyfilmfestival

PRESS RELEASE

PREVIOUS WINNER PHILLIP NOYCE ANNOUNCES THE FINALISTS OF THE 2006 DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

Today at the program launch for the 53rd Sydney Film Festival, Award Winning director and festival patron, Phillip Noyce, announced the finalists in the 2006 Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films.

Although a prestigious Awards for Australian short films has been held at the Sydney Film Festival since 1970 it has been known as the Dendy Awards for the past 17 years.

Showcasing the best of Australian short filmmaking, the Dendy Awards, has provided an all-important stepping stone to the careers of many filmmakers. Indeed, Internationally renowned director Phillip Noyce won a Dendy Award for his Australian short film *Castor & Pollux* in 1974. Other previous winners include directors Jane Campion (1984, *A Girl's Own Story*), Samantha Lang (1995, *Audacious*), Ivan Sen (2000, *Dust*), and Sejong Park (2004, *Birthday Boy*), just to name a few.

Full list of Finalists:

The 2006 Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films

DOCUMENTARY CATEGORY

sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and Dendy Films

Judges: Michael Cordell, Dr. Olivia Khoo, Liz Thompson.

Abortion, Corruption and Cops - The Bertram Wainer Story

In his fight to make abortion accessible, affordable and safe, Dr. Bertram Wainer risked his life to uncover a web of corruption involving abortionists, politicians and the police. Director John Moore | Producers John Moore and Sue Seeary for Film Australia in association with John Moore Productions | 52 mins

Butterfly Man

The evolutionary tale of Don Herbison-Evans, a man who studies butterflies then experiences a human metamorphosis on the dance floor. Director Samantha Rebillet | Producer Justin Davies for the Australian Film Television and Radio School. | 6 mins

Girl in a Mirror

Documents the work of 1970s photographer Carol Jerrems, in a life tragically cut short. Drawing from hundreds of her photographs, the film traces the passionate and exuberant course that Jerrems took through this turbulent decade. Director Kathy Drayton | Producer Helen Bowden for Toi-Toi Films Pty Ltd | 55 mins

The Prodigal Son, directed by Tony Radevski and produced by Tom Zubrycki for Jotz Productions, was Highly Commended in the Documentary category.

EXPERIMENTAL CATEGORY

sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and Dendy Films

Judges: Daniel Askill, Chris Caines, Tamara Meem.

Looking Back

Recollections of childhood memories mingle with visions of a surreal, foreboding world.

Director/producer Mark Tsukasov | 5 mins

Sub-

An allegorical and mystical tale that is rich in symbolism. Without dialogue, *Sub-*, explores universal themes of family, love and the current political climate.

Director Maia Horniak | Producer Katherine Shortland for the Australian Film Television and Radio School | 10mins

Whole Heart

A woman looks out as far as she can see. She dreams of flight and freedom but first she must discard all that weighs her down.

Director/producer Tracie Mitchell for Twirling Sheila Productions | 10 mins

State of Suspension, directed and produced by Dominika Ferenz for Ikonfilm, and **Stati D'Animo**, directed and produced by Marilyn Fairskye for Plus + Minus Productions, were Highly Commended in the Experimental category.

LONG FORM SHORT CATEGORY

sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and Dendy Films

Judges: Patricia Lovell, John Politzer, Scott Ryan

Adrift

Adrift tells the parallel stories of Albert and Jess, two strangers connected by a common tragedy. The event is a catalyst that allows them both to grieve about their lives.

Director Simon Portus | Producer David Curzon for Swing Wing International | 16 mins

Paper and Sand

After a year in immigration detention, Bahram and Samira are finally on their way to a new home with relatives in country NSW. But as they wait and save money by the beach in Sydney, they find they have different ideas about what home might be.

Director/producer Sotiris Dounoukos for Nestani Productions | 17 mins

Stranded

How long does it take before the abnormal seems normal? Death, love and family values are all up for re-negotiation in this black comedy about a girl trying to start a new life for herself after the loss of her mother.

Director Stuart McDonald | Producers Beth Frey, Lizzette Atkins for Circe Films Pty Ltd | 52 mins

Go Quickly, directed by Michael McLennan and produced by Katharine Hodge for Sydney Film School, was Highly Commended in the Long Form Short category.

Judges' statement: 'Judging a winner was difficult as the standard of entries was of very high quality and there were many excellent performances from both the very young as well as from very experienced actors. The multicultural nature of many of the entries was really exciting and watching all this excellent work gives great hope for the future of our film industry.'

SHORT FILM SHORT CATEGORY

sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and Dendy Films

Judges: Hamish Ford, Tony Krawitz, Emile Sherman.

The Eye Inside

1880. A disturbed teenage girl is confined to an asylum by a voyeuristic doctor. He hypnotises her as part of a 'cure' that invades her memory, her body and eventually her dreams. She knows she must find a way out or go truly mad.

Director Cordelia Beresford | Producer Alison Dredge | 14 mins

Fish

A boy who makes treasure out of trash meets a girl who thinks she is, together they explore each other's wastelands.

Director Eron Sheean | Producer Jason Byrne for Eron Sheean Productions | 13 mins

Small Boxes

Alberto works the nightshift unloading boxes at the local produce markets. The prospect of a new job will mean he will have to find all his courage and belief in himself to make that change.

Director Rene Hernandez | Producer Kristina Ceyton for Passion Pictures | 15 mins

In My Day, directed by Dave Jones and produced by Jill McLeod for Transcience, was Highly Commended in the Short Form Short category.

THE 2006 CRC AWARD

sponsored by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW

Judges: Anthony Maras, Flordeliz Bonifacio, Marta Aquino.

Small Boxes

Alberto works the nightshift unloading boxes at the local produce markets. The prospect of a new job will mean he will have to find all his courage and belief in himself to make that change.

Director Rene Hernandez | Producer Kristina Ceyton for Passion Pictures | 15 mins

Paper and Sand

After a year in immigration detention, Bahram and Samira are finally on their way to a new home with relatives in country NSW. But as they wait and save money by the beach in Sydney, they find they have different ideas about what home might be.

Director/producer Sotiris Dounoukos for Nestani Productions | 17 mins

Switch on the Night

A poetic documentary exploring stories of seven refugee children in Australia - their experiences of immigration, their memories, dreams and fears. All of them have experienced life in Australian immigration detention centres in Villawood, Baxter and Port Hedland but a large part of this reality remains unseen.

Director Alejandra Canales | Producers Susan Cornish, Sarah Royds for the Australian Film Television and Radio School | 42 mins

Arranging Love, directed by Sheila Jayadev and produced by Janelle Landers for Switch Films, and **Pioneers of Love**, directed by Julie Nimmo and produced by Richard Dennison for Orana Films, were Highly Commended in The 2006 CRC Award.

**THE 2006 YORAM GROSS ANIMATION AWARD
sponsored by Yoram and Sandra Gross**

Judges: Anthony Lucas, Paul McDermott, Van Sowerwine.

Autumn Moon

Three children are making lanterns for the Autumn Moon Festival. They become so involved in what they are doing, they forget their surroundings.

Director Nga Chu | Producers Danielle Giles, Rowena Crowe | 5 mins

Carnivore Reflux

In their lifetime the average meat-eating human will consume: 10 cows, 1/2 tonne of fish, 760 chickens, 37 sheep, 42 pigs and 1 1/2 tonnes of miscellaneous animals.

Directors Eddie White, James Calvert | Producers Huy Nguyen, Sam White for The People's Republic of Animation | 7 mins

Gustavo

A surreal journey to the very depths of one man's fecund follicles. The universal looks on at this hirsute horror.

Director Jonathan Nix | Producer Andrew Etheridge for Cartwheel Partners | 4 mins

The Safe House

Based on the true story from director Lee Whitmore's childhood in 1950s Australia - her brush with the Cold War spy drama known as the Petrov Affair.

Director Lee Whitmore | Producer Denise Haslem for Film Australia | 26 mins

The Luminary, directed by Nicholas Kallincos and produced by Shannon Owen for Luminary Productions, was Highly Commended in the 2006 Yoram Gross Animation Award.

Judges' statement: 'Choosing only three animation finalists proved too difficult, so this year there are four finalists in this category, and even reaching this number was a challenge. Most of the entrants demonstrated either excellent production values, strong themes or narratives, or imaginative uses of various animation techniques. The four finalists were chosen because of their excellence in all these areas.'

The winners of The 2006 DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS will be announced on Closing Night 24 June. The winner of each category will receive a cash prize \$3,000 courtesy of Dendy Cinemas and Dendy Films. The winner of **The YORAM GROSS ANIMATION AWARD**, sponsored by Yoram and Sandra Gross, will also be awarded \$3,000. The winner of **The 2006 CRC AWARD**, sponsored by the Community Relations Commission For a multicultural NSW, will be awarded \$4,000.

THE 2006 ROUBEN MAMOULIAN AWARD presented by SHOWTIME

A panel of the Festival's guests will select one film from the 17 finalists to be awarded the 2006 Rouben Mamoulian Award, which carries a cash prize of \$3,000 courtesy of SHOWTIME. The winner will be announced on Closing Night 24 June.

SBS LANGUAGE SERVICES AWARDS

SBS Language Services will donate subtitles for the winning films in the following categories: Documentary, Short Form Short and Long Form Short. The prize includes subtitle preparation into any of SBS's specialist languages. The subtitles will be created and edited by SBS trained subtitling staff. The prize aims to assist filmmakers in entering their films in international film festivals and competitions.

Sydney Film Festival 9-25 June 2006.

For full program information: www.sydneyfilmfestival.org

For further information please contact Gallus & Co on (02) 8396 6500:

Sally Steele	sally@gallusandco.com.au
Petter Young Thorendahl	petter@gallusandco.com.au
Jillian Heggie	jillian@gallusandco.com.au

Principal sponsor:



Awards Partner:



Awards Supporters:

