



Edmonton International
FILM FESTIVAL

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2011 Edmonton International Film Festival Award Winners Announced.

Organizers of the **Edmonton International Film Festival** are thrilled to announce the selection of **WILD HORSE, WILD RIDE** – from filmmaking team Alexandra Dawson and Greg Gricus – as the winner of the 2011 **People's Choice Award (Feature)**, as chosen by EIFF audiences. Selected from 57 feature films screened at this year's festival, **WILD HORSE, WILD RIDE** tells the story of the *Extreme Mustang Makeover Challenge*, an annual contest that dares 100 people to each tame a totally wild mustang in order to get it adopted into a better life beyond federal corrals.

Co-director Greg Gricus, in attendance for this year's Closing Night Gala & Awards Ceremony, was elated that Edmontonians embraced his film with such passion: "The horse issue is a good one and in that story, the people we met, we fell in love with those folks. It was great to get to share it with you and we hope you got a feel for what they're doing. They're inspiring people. I hope the film brought that out and helped inspire you".

Rounding out the Top 5 audience favorites, in order, were **STARBUCK, TUCKER AND DALE VS EVIL, CRIME AFTER CRIME**, and **CLOUDBURST**.

With nearly 100 short films in competition for the 2011 **People's Choice Award – Short**, EIFF's amazingly supportive short film audiences selected the Irish film, **CROSSWORD**, from director Vincent Gallagher.

Also this year, for the first time ever, EIFF opened up voting to the 1000+ students in attendance for the 'EIFF U Student Screening Series'. Students voted for the Favorite Feature and Favorite Short. The Student's Choice Short Film Winner was the Canadian short **DISTILLED LOVE**, directed by Joe Kicak, and in an incredibly tight race, the Feature Film Winner was Warren Skeels' inspirational documentary, **THESPIANS**.

For the feature films in Official Competition this year, thousands of audience votes helped to determine the winners in each category. This year's winners are:

BEST CANADIAN INDIE: **CLOUDBURST**, directed by Thom Fitzgerald
BEST INDIE FEATURE: **A BAG OF HAMMERS**, directed by Brian Crano (USA)
BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE: **MATCHING JACK**, directed by Nadia Tass (Australia)
BEST INDIE DOC: **WILD HORSE WILD RIDE**, directed by Alexandra Dawson and Greg Gricus (USA)

In the 2011 Short Films Competition, the EIFF Short Films Jury pored over all of the shorts featured in this year's festival, to determine the following winners:

BEST ALBERTA SHORT: **NOT FAR FROM THE ABBATOIR**, directed by Kyle Thomas
BEST CANADIAN SHORT: **TROTTEUR**, directed by Arnaud Brisebois and Francis Leclerc
BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT: **CROSSWORD**, directed by Vincent Gallagher (Ireland)

BEST DOC SHORT: **SIMPLY ROB**, directed by Tom Shrapnel (USA)

BEST ANIMATED SHORT: **MORNING STROLL**, directed by Grant Orchard (UK)

The jury also awarded a Special Jury Prize for BEST EXPERIMENTAL SHORT, for the Australian film **THE MAESTRO**, directed by Adam Anthony.

Juror Brian Hendricks, had this to say, "On behalf of the jury, I would like to express what a privilege it was to view dozens of short films from Alberta, Canada, and around the world...cinema has never been more alive and vibrant. Congrats to all the artists who have shed light on our world."

EIFF congratulates ALL of the filmmakers who screened a film at this year's festival, and sends a heartfelt thank you to our incredible audiences.