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2011 OREGON FILM AWARDS ANNOUNCES WINNERS

Rohit Gupta's "Life Camera Action..." triumphs the Grand Jury Prize.

"Homunculus" written by Austen Brauker receives First Place in the Screenplay Competition

The jury prizes and top award winners of the 2011 Oregon Film Awards were announced Thursday, October 27. Top winners were selected in each of the main competitive categories along with Special Jury Awards, and winners in the four top tiers of recognition: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze level achievements.

"2011 marked another tremendous year for independent filmmaking and the Oregon Film Awards," said Lloyd Bell, the Festival's Director. "It's an honor to recognize such remarkable work from artists so talented, creative, and deserving."

A truly noteworthy year for the Oregon Film Awards; the competition received a diverse array of submissions representing storytellers in several countries around the world. Judging proved to be extremely difficult as there were so many distinctive, well-made and commendable projects. The Oregon Film Awards recognizes the very best in domestic and international independent cinema and screenwriting.

The 2011 Oregon Film Award Winners:

The **Grand Jury Award** was awarded to **Life Camera Action...** directed by Rohit Gupta (USA). To be born with a personality is an inherent gift from our parents, but to live as a personality, is an achievement of our own and a return gift to our parents.

The **Special Jury Award** was awarded to **Quirk of Fate** directed by Marco J. Riedl (Germany). A Quirk of Fate leads Luke Hallow to risk violating his parole and losing his newly won freedom. He has to save the life of his nine-year-old daughter, Noel, who urgently needs a donor heart. Only a miracle keeps him from losing everything forever.

The **Special Jury Award** was awarded to **Marathon Boy** directed by Gemma Atwal (United Kingdom). What starts as a simple inspirational story - the hope of a small boy

and his trainer who unite to pursue a dream in a ruthless world - goes on to reveal the darker side of humanity and the complexities of Indian society as it struggles to come to grips with the realities of the slums, slum gangs and crime, and state-sanctioned corruption.

Best of Oregon was awarded to **Drawing Dead** directed by Mike Weeks (USA). A short documentary film exploring the world of online poker from two very different perspectives: an online pro worth millions, and a college kid who almost gambled away his future.

Best Animation was awarded to **Worlds Apart** directed by Michael Zachary Huber (USA). Part science fiction, part thriller and part cautionary fairytale, *Worlds Apart* encompasses the universal themes of innocence, friendship and the possible fate of humanity.

Best Actor and Best Short Film were awarded to **Augenblicke** directed by Martin Bargiel; Christian Preuss, Actor (Germany). In the middle of the night a fight between Schenker's neighbors won't let him rest. Half asleep his mind is playing tricks on him; constantly he awakes in different places. Now he has to face questioning by an inspector about a dead woman, and his nightmare begins.

Best Actress was awarded to **Look At Me Again** directed by James Christopher; Stephanie Dunbar, Actress (USA). Three sisters torn apart by tragedy, infidelity, and heartbreak must now fight for their family, or lose it forever.

Best Comedy was awarded to **Nocturnal After Hours** directed by Davis Mejias (USA). DJ Caesar is a favorite in the Brooklyn warehouse rave scene, but he is about to get his big chance. His manager arranged for Caesar to perform at Halcyon music store and at the House of Yes rave to meet a record label executive. At Halcyon, Caesar meets a potential girlfriend, but her violent and abusive boyfriend interferes and threatens to ruin Caesar's big chance at a record deal and finding love.

Best Director was awarded to **7 Years Underground: A 60's Tale** directed by Jason M. Solomon (USA). In 1964, after spending a one year protracted legal battle, co-club owners, Howard and Elly Solomon were finally granted a 'unique' cabaret license and the Cafe Au Go Go opened its doors on February 7. A historic arrest, and the international press it garnered would put the Cafe Au Go Go on the entertainment world map.

Best Documentary Feature was awarded to **Shepherds of Helmand** directed by Gary Mortensen (USA). In 2008, an all-volunteer group of National Guard Soldiers from Oregon deployed to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army. Their mission was to be a first-of-its-kind 'counter narcotics' battalion sent into the deadly Helmand Province to interdict the opium trade. The mission quickly breaks down and the Oregonians find themselves split up and isolated on remote patrol bases along the Helmand River. At a

patrol base called 'Attal' (Afghan for warrior) the men suffer daily attacks from a determined enemy committed to over running the base and killing everyone inside it.

Best Documentary Short was awarded to **Beatboxing - The Fifth Element of Hip Hop** directed by Klaus Schneyder (USA). From the hardship of poverty and the lack of instruments, a pioneer was inspired to imitate drum rhythms with his mouth - his brilliance creating the term 'Human Beatbox'.

Best Educational Film was awarded to **Dreaming up the Past** directed by Oleg Timofeyev and Sabine I. Gölz (Ukraine). An American Early Music expert comes to Ukraine and is astonished to find that what is internationally known as Early Music all over Europe, the US, and beyond, barely exists there at all. He sets out to understand why, and finds that Ukraine's specific musical history and traditions, distinctly different from those in Western Europe, create a uniquely different flavor and style of early music making there.

Best Family Film was awarded to **The Son of the Sea** directed by Roberto Aznar Almazan (Spain). Some people believe that the way of dying has a lot to do with the way of living. My father loved the sea and, in it, he found his own death. He drowned trying to save Victor, my son, from the sea he loved so much. Even though this could be the end of a sad story, it is just the beginning.

Best First-Time Director was awarded to **For a Fistful of Snow** directed by Julien Ezri (Switzerland). A long time ago, terror, loathing and power reigned over the Wild Wild North. The foolishness of the inhabitants led them to battle for anything, even...For a Fistful of Snow.

Best Foreign Film was awarded to **Meherjaan** directed by Rubaiyat Hossain (Bangladesh). Meherjaan gives away with the unitary masculine narrative in order to usher in emotional multiplicity of feminine emotion and sensibility. This film critiques certain pitfalls of nationalism that create conditions to justify war, killing and violence. Finally, Meherjaan attempts to offer an aesthetic solution to war and violence by taking refuge in love and spiritual submission.

Best Music Video was awarded to **Titarius - D.O.A** directed by Charles Quinn Frutos (USA). A woman awakens in a cage; she escapes and finds herself in a remote cabin in the woods, where she quickly discovers she is the object of a hunt by several deranged killers. All the while an eclectic group of gamblers, orchestrated by a mysterious Master of Ceremonies and his beautiful partner, watch her every move via remote video cameras. The stakes rise as each one of the gamblers bets on which one of the killers will get to her first.

Best Narrative Feature was awarded to **Dynamite Swine** directed by Mark Poisella (USA). While attempting to save his girlfriend's "hair salon for the homeless," a run-n-gun

gambler falls \$10K in the hole to a sadistic Russian quadriplegic thug and must enter the biggest card tourney of his life in order to save the salon, his ass, his brother's ass and the life of a pig named Porky!

Best Narrative Short was awarded to **Another Day Another Life** directed by Rohit Gupta (USA). A man struggles with his natural instincts for revenge when the only person that really mattered in grand scheme of life rescues him.

Best Produced Feature Screenplay was awarded to **Snatch 'N' Grab** directed James Christopher (USA). Four women face losing their identities and their sense of worth when they are consumed by day-to-day duties. In an attempt to get control of their lives, they reach a drastic solution: live like guys.

Best Produced Short Screenplay was awarded to **Chase Thompson, a film by Chase Thompson** directed by Vincent Lin (USA). When up and coming filmmaker Chase Thompson is hired to direct a lackluster romance film, the foolhardy director takes it as an opportunity to fire the crew and turn the film into his own zombie slaying masterpiece, starring himself.

Best Student Film was awarded to **Almost Runaways** directed by Josh Staman (USA). A young boy gets the chance of his life to run away from home with the girl of his dreams...but what to bring?

Best Television Production was awarded to **StarTrip Chattabago** directed by Ansje Germann (United Kingdom). StarTrip Chattabago is a unique reality entertainment chat show, produced on the road, with a comedy double act for presenters and members of the public as guests. It puts the spotlight on the real stars. Normal people who have an incredible life story to tell. They join the presenters in the Winnebago to give them an insight in daily lives through interviews and stopovers at certain locations selected by the interviewees.

Screenplay Competition

The **Grand Prize Feature Screenplay** was awarded to "*Homunculus*" written by Austen Brauker. Gruesome attacks ignite area locals to hunt for cougars in the deep forests of northern Michigan. Native tribal elders corrupt police and backwoods drug dealers become intertwined in the confusion as mangled human and animal bodies are discovered. A psychopathic doctor has created a Homunculus, a mythical humanoid monster, using an ancient alchemical.

The **1st Place Feature Screenplay** was awarded to "*The Wind Riders*" written by Jeffrey Ryback. Based on the atrocities committed against the Tibetans by the Chinese, "The

Wind Riders" follows the son of an American ambassador who joins forces with the Tibetan freedom fighters to stop the invading Chinese army and save his family.

The **2nd Place Feature Screenplay** was awarded to "*Through Laura's Eyes*" written by Donna Adams. A struggling journalist takes personal and professional risks to tell the story of a talented, homeless teenager.

The **3rd Place Feature Screenplay** was awarded to "*The Wishing Well*" written by Jim Gabaldon. Fortunes turn when two eccentric seniors sacrifice their best friend's dream, for their own.

The **Grand Prize Short Screenplay** was awarded to "*Morgan Street Watch Co.*" written by Gur Benshemesh. Two brothers are forced to carry out a robbery to save their mother's home from the bank. But there is more to the seemingly innocuous Morgan Street Watch Company, and its aging proprietor, than first impressions betray, and in its dark basement, their decisions will carry unforeseen and dire consequences.

The **1st Place Short Screenplay** was awarded to "*Operation Buddy*" written by Michael Feely. When the only solution to an army made from clones is a decoy team of klutzy women scientists, you know the world is in trouble. A traitorous scientist steals classified DNA formulas and creates a cloning tonic that works similar to ID theft. His army tries to capture the world's oil supply. Eventually this dynamic duo stumbles upon an antidote to avert the threat, but time is running out.

The **2nd Place Short Screenplay** was awarded to "*Wrigley & King*" written by Cornelius Murphy. A man attends his brother's funeral and reflects on a childhood memory when his brother took revenge against a neighbor for killing the family dog.

The **3rd Place Short Screenplay** was awarded to "*FunHouse*" written by Paul Ellington. A woman seeks vengeance years after a trusted family friend assaults her.

The **4th Place Short Screenplay** was awarded to was awarded to "*Surveyor*" written by Scott Blake. Using compasses, levels, and chains, Surveyors set out into hostile territory to certify claims. It was the most dangerous job in North America.

Screenplay Official Finalists

"A Clear Field" written by Paul Lomartire

"Bums, Inc." written by Denise Landau

"How to Live with a Woman" written by Dan Cook

"Letters from Wolfie" written by James Christopher

"Papa" written by Eugene A. Gavrilenko

"Past my Prime" written by Justine Barron

"The Chinese Disco" written by John Harris

"The Frozen Man" written by Al Kline
"The Insurgent" written by Jeff Kimball
"The Journal" written by Braide Keyland

About The Oregon Film Awards:

The Oregon Film Awards honors and celebrates the brightest talent in the global filmmaking community while at the same time expanding viewers and their appetite for independent films in the state of Oregon.

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