



**April 28, 2011**

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## **SIFF ANNOUNCES FILM COMPETITION LINEUPS FOR 2011 FESTIVAL**

*Award Winners to be Announced at Space Needle Awards Brunch on June 11*

**Seattle, WA** – The 37th Seattle International Film Festival, the largest and most highly-attended event of its kind in the United States, today announced the lineups for this year's New Directors, Documentary and SIFF Shorts and FIPRESCI New American Cinema jury competitions.

SIFF competitions are intended to reflect the diversity and excellence of global filmmaking with awards given to the winners as determined by independent juries as well as by audience voting.

The films in this year's competitions include eight premieres (one World, five North American and two U.S.), and the award winners will be announced at the Space Needle Awards Brunch on Saturday, June 11.

### **New Directors Competition**

Festival programmers select 10 films remarkable for their original concept, striking style, and overall excellence. To be eligible for consideration, the films must be the director's first or second feature and must be without US distribution at the time of their selection, with the Grand Jury Prize Award Winner receiving a cash prize of \$2,500. This year's contenders are:

*Absent*, directed by Marco Berger (Argentina, 2011) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
*Almanya*, directed by Yasemin Samdereli (Germany, 2011) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
*Artificial Paradises*, directed by Yulene Olaizola (Mexico, 2011)  
*Belle Epine*, directed by Rebecca Zlotowski (France, 2010)  
*Cairo 678*, directed by Mohamed Diab (Egypt, 2010)  
*Every Song is About Me*, directed by Jonas Trueba (Spain, 2010) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
*Flying Fish*, directed by Sanjeewa Pushpakumara (Sri Lanka, 2011) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
*Gandu*, directed by Q (Kaushik Mukherjee) (India, 2010)  
*The Most Important Thing in Life Is Not Being Dead*, directed by Olivier Pictel, Pablo Martin Torrado, Mark Recuenco (Switzerland, 2010)  
*Por El Camino*, directed by Charly Braun (Brazil, 2010) US PREMIERE

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### **Documentary Competition**

SIFF programmers have selected 10 films from this year's documentaries lineup that are unscripted and uncut, the world is a resource of unexpected, informative, and altogether exciting storytelling. The Grand Prize Jury Award winner will be announced at the Golden Space Needle Awards brunch and will receive a cash prize of \$2,500. This year's entrees are:

*An African Election*, directed by Jarreth Merz (Ghana, 2010)  
*Bicycle, Spoon, Apple*, directed by Carles Bosch (Spain, 2010) NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE  
*The Green Wave*, directed by Ali Samadi Ahadi (Germany, 2010)  
*Hot Coffee*, directed by Susan Saladoff (USA, 2011)  
*Marathon Boy*, directed by Gemma Atwal (India, 2010)  
*PressPausePlay*, directed by David Dworsky, Victor Köhler (Sweden, 2011)  
*Red Eyes*, directed by Juan Pablo Sallato, Ismael Larrain, Juan Ignacio Sabatini (Chile, 2011)  
US PREMIERE  
*Rothstein's First Assignment*, directed by Richard Knox Robinson (USA, 2010)  
*Sushi: The Global Catch*, directed by Mark Hall (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE  
*To Be Heard*, directed by Amy Sultan, Roland Legiardi-Laura, Deborah Shaffer, Edwin Martinez (USA, 2010)

### **Shorts Competition**

All short films screened during the Festival will be entered to compete for top honors in the SIFF Shorts Competition, with jury members selecting Winners in three categories—Live Action, Animation, and Documentary—on SIFF ShortsFest Weekend. Winners will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and the Narrative and Animation winners may also qualify to enter their films in the Short Film category of the Academy Awards®.

### **FIPRESCI Jury Award**

SIFF once again enlisted FIPRESCI, the International Federation of Film Critics, to jury a selection of films from the New American Cinema section. SIFF is one of three festivals in the United States to host a FIPRESCI jury, with the winning film awarded the FIPRESCI Prize.

FIPRESCI, in existence for more than 65 years, with members in over 60 countries, supports cinema as an art and as an outstanding and autonomous means of expression.

New American Cinema features eligible for the FIPRESCI award include:

*August*, directed by Eldar Rapaport (USA, 2011) WORLD PREMIERE  
*Black, White and Blues*, directed by Mario Van Peebles (USA, 2010)  
*Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*, directed by Madeleine Olnek (USA, 2011)  
*Gun Hill Road*, directed by Rashaad Ernesto Green (USA, 2011)  
*Jess + Moss*, directed by Clay Jeter (USA, 2011)  
*Letters From the Big Man*, directed by Christopher Munch (USA, 2011)  
*LOVE*, directed by William Eubank (USA, 2011)  
*Natural Selection*, directed by Robbie Pickering (USA, 2011)  
*On the Ice*, directed by Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (USA, 2011)  
*Roadie*, directed by Michael Cuesta (USA, 2011)

**Golden Space Needle Awards**

Audiences are encouraged to vote for their favorite features for the esteemed audience award, The Golden Space Needle, given to Best Film, Best Documentary, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Short Film. The Golden Space Needle winner for Best Short Film will receive a brand new Mac computer, fully loaded with the latest filmmaking software from The Mac Store, and will receive \$1,000 of film stock from Eastman Kodak.

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**About SIFF**

Now in its 37th year, the Seattle International Film Festival is the largest and most highly attended film festival in the United States, showcasing more than 400 films from over 70 countries to an audience of 155,000 attendees annually. In the fall of 2011, SIFF will open the SIFF Film Center at Seattle Center's Alki Room, thereby fulfilling its longstanding vision of creating a permanent home where SIFF's successful film, education, and community outreach programs can thrive.

The 37th Seattle International Film Festival is made possible in part by support from Xfinity, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Brotherton Cadillac Buick GMC, Alaska Airlines, Don Q Rums, The Wallace Foundation, Wong Doody, American Airlines, Modern Digital, POP, City Arts Magazine, The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and Warren Miller Company.