

Arpa International Film Festival Announces 2010 Jury, Nominated and Distinguished films

Hollywood, CA – The 13th annual Arpa International Film Festival announced the jury and the nominated and distinguished films of 2010.

This year's esteemed festival jury includes journalist Scott Davis who has authored over twenty novels including the recent TekWar Chronicles with William Shatner. Davis's articles have appeared in many publications including The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and Entertainment Weekly. Frank Guttler is a film/video educator who served as Producer and Associate Director of the American Film Institute Screen Education Center; Former CAA agent Geoff Yim whose newly formed production banner is in development on a number of feature films as well as in pre-production on two winter films. Valerie McCaffrey is an award-winning film producer and one of Hollywood's top casting directors ("Babe", "American History X", "Hard Candy"); and actor Ken Davitian from the blockbuster films "Borat" and "Get Smart". Francophone-Fest jurists include Georges N. Chamchoum an award-winning film director, producer and program director of The Monaco Charity Film Festival, in Monte Carlo; Helene E. Hagan, producer, human rights activist, founder of the Los Angeles Amazigh Film Festival, which showcases Amazigh (Berber and Tuareg) work from North Africa and the Sahara; and Laurent Morlet, a television and film producer, and former Executive Director of the Los Angeles Film and TV Office of the French Embassy.

Nominated and Distinguished Films for 2010

Best Short Film

Akhtamar (Armenia, United Kingdom)
Eye-Light (South Korea)
The Fifth Column (Hinkert Zorasune) (Lebanon, USA)
The Gift of the Magi (Japan)
A Nice Old-Fashioned Romance (USA)
Nuit Blanche (Canada)

Best Documentary Film

Charents: In Search of My Armenian Poet (Armenia)
Down Here (Ici-Bas) (Belgium, France, Armenia)
From Ararat to Zion (Armenia, Egypt, Israel, Turkey)
Little Alien (Austria, Greece, Morocco, Slovakia, Spain)
A Woman From Kyrannis (Tunisia)

Best Feature Film

Animal Heart (Coeur Animal) (Switzerland)
Bonded Parallels (Armenia, Norway)
The Forgotten of History (Les Oubliés de L'Histoire) (Morocco, Belgium)
I Like It (A Me Mi Gusta) (Venezuela)
Tales From Kars (Turkey)
Best Screenplay
Animal Heart (Coeur Animal) (Switzerland)
Bonded Parallels (Norway, Armenia)
The Forgotten of History (Les Oubliés de L'Histoire) (Morocco, Belgium)
I Like It (A Me Mi Gusta) (Venezuela)

Best Director

Animal Heart (Coeur Animal) (Switzerland)
Bonded Parallels (Norway, Armenia)

The Forgiven of History (Les Oubliés de L'Histoire) (Morocco, Belgium)
I Like It (A Me Mi Gusta) (Venezuela)

Francophone-Fest Cinema Award

Animal Heart (Coeur Animal) (Switzerland)
The Barons (Les Barons) (Belgium, France)
Father and Guns (De Pere en Flic) (Canada)
Finding Gauguin (USA)
The Forgiven of History (Les Oubliés de L'Histoire) (Morocco, Belgium)

Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award

Eric Friedler for Aghet: A Genocide (Germany)

Arpa Foundation Award

Armenian Missionary Association of America
Arpa / AT&T Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship
Scientists Under Attack: Genetic Engineering in the Magnetic Field of Money (Germany)
Arpa Career Achievement Award
Serge Avedikian

Event Highlights

Tuesday, September 21 – 6:30 pm – Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood
Celebration of Armenian Independence Day, under the auspices of the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia. The epic 1926 Armenian silent film NAMUS will screen, courtesy of MGN/Paradise, Inc, after the reception as a part of the festival's opening night.

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:00 pm – Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood – Sponsor Air Tahiti Nui
Director, writer and producer Alek Keshishian will present Paris-based filmmaker Serge Avedikian with a Career Achievement Award at the festival's Francophone evening at the Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood. Avedikian is an Armenian-French film and theatre actor, director, writer, producer, and winner of this year's Cannes Film Festival's Palm D'Or prize for his short film, Chienne D'Histoire (Barking Island).

Alek Keshishian ("Madonna: Truth or Dare", "With Honors", "Love and Other Disasters") and Madonna co-wrote the feature film "W.E." which is currently in production with Madonna directing.

Note: Screenings start at 4:30 PM for a list of all Thursday screenings please go to affma.org

Friday, September 24 – 7:00 pm – Egyptian Theatre, Hollywood
German Filmmaker Eric Friedler will receive the 2010 Armin T. Wegner Award for his documentary, AGHET – A Genocide. The film has received world-wide exposure for its innovative way of retelling first hand accounts of the Armenian Genocide. Friedler directed such actors as Andy Serkis ("Lord of the Rings") to portray historical figures such as Armin T. Wegner and Henry Morgantheau.

Note: Screenings start at 5pm – for a list of all Friday Screenings please go to affma.org

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Screenings begin at 10:00 am. For a list of all Saturday screenings please visit affma.org.

Note: large attendance expected for the evening premieres for Kris Kertenian's "Last Stop: Friendship."

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Red Carpet Closing Night Awards Gala & Reception.

Attending: The event's Mistress of Ceremonies will be actress Raya Meddine (Sex and the City 2). Award presenters include David Alpay ("Rome") Heather McComb, (Steel City) Ken

Davitian (Borat, Get Smart), Anoush NeVart (Must Love Dogs), James Duke Mason (You Can't Have it All, grandson of legendary actor James Mason, son of Belinda Carlisle and Morgan Mason); Vik Sahay (Existenz), and Brad Pomerance (Local Edition, CNN HLN). Singer Natalie Der-Mesropian will perform a special dedication to this year's Francophone participants.

AT&T YP.com will be on hand to present the Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship. And the festival will present its Foundation Award to AMAA Orphan Care.

Past Arpa Award presenters include Frances Fisher (Titanic), Cheech Marin (Cheech and Chong), Dean Cain ("Superman"), Tippi Hedren (The Birds), and singer, songwriter, and singer/songwriter Alanis Morissette. The fest has honored Academy Award nominees Atom Egoyan (The Sweet Hereafter), Shohreh Aghdashloo (House of Sand and Fog), and other filmmakers, writers, and artists during the past 13 years.

Full schedule and advance Gold Pass and discounted screening and event tickets can be purchased now through September 20 online at <http://affma.org/>

Arpa International Film Festival

The 13th annual Arpa International Film Festival runs September 21-26 at the Egyptian Theatre located at 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028. All-Access VIP Gold Passes are currently on sale for \$120. Individual screening \$10. For more information about press, sponsorship and advertising opportunities, visit www.affma.org or call 323-663-1882.

AFFMA

The annual film festival is the signature event of Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA). Founded in 1995 for the purpose of enhancing the creative environment of the Los Angeles community, AFFMA is a non-profit organization that supports artists who bridge the cultural divide. AFFMA annually stages the festival, concerts, art exhibits, networking events, and film benefits. To send AFFMA a tax-deductible donation, please mail donations to AFFMA – 2919 Maxwell St., Los Angeles, CA 90027. All donations go towards the production of AFFMA's annual film festival. www.affma.org

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