



Media Release: 2014 Winners Announcement
Monday 3 November, 2014

***The first learning disability led film and new media festival in the Southern Hemisphere.
Find out what you don't know!***

The 2014 Sit Down, Shutup and Watch Film & New Media Festival Award Winners were announced on Friday 31 October 2014, at the Red Carpet Awards Ceremony held in Angaston, Barossa Valley, celebrating and acknowledging the creativity and outstanding talents of filmmakers with a learning disability.

Winning films were selected from more than 40 films entered from around Australia and the globe. There were nine separate award categories: SA Film Corporation Most Original Film, Access2Arts Best Music Video, Arts Access Australia New Media and Video Art Award, Best Animation, Best Special Effects, Funniest Film, The Hive Award, Our Story and Best of the Festival. Finalists reflected the global interest in learning disability led filmmaking with films nominated from Germany, UK, Ireland and Israel as well as across Australia.

A formal welcome by Lee Witczak, Chairperson of the SDSW Festival Steering Committee kicked off proceedings. This was followed by an introduction from Councilor Margaret Harris from the Barossa Valley Council, and official opening address by Jennifer Layther, Director Presenting Programs, Organisations and Initiatives Arts SA. Angaston Town Hall played host to approximately 300 festival patrons throughout the day, with approximately 150 attending the Red Carpet Awards Presentation on Friday night.

"Our first SDSW festival has been a huge success and has exceeded our expectations. We say a big, big thank you to all who entered and to all who supported our vision to make this first festival a reality. After three years in planning we are thrilled with our achievements," said Lee Witczak, Chairperson SDSW Steering Committee.

Mervyn Bradley's *The Sea Reminds Me* was the first film to screen and went on to win the Best of Festival Award presented by SDSW Committee member Matthew Wauchope. The afternoon program included an International Showcase of films from the UK based Oska Bright Film Festival and a Filmmakers Forum. The Forum provided an opportunity for the audience to take part in an insightful discussion amongst learning disabled filmmakers, chaired by The Honorable, Kelly Vincent, Member of the Legislative Council.

SDSW Steering Committee members Lee Witczak, Samantha Charles and Ryan Thomas hosted the Red Carpet Awards Presentation that night. Nine Awards were presented to learning disability filmmakers by guest presenters who included The Honorable Kelly Vincent; Joost den Hartog, Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference; and The Honorable Tony Piccolo, SA Minister for Disability, representing The Honorable Jack Snelling, Minister for the Arts. Becky Llewellyn from Arts Access Australia who represented national disability organisation Arts Access Australia and SA's Access2Arts, commented on South Australia's vision in leading the sector to establish SDSW as the first learning disability film and new media festival in the Southern Hemisphere, thereby providing a strong platform for learning disabled artists perspectives and storytelling voices to be heard; her comments echoed those made by Arts SA's Jennifer Layther at the festival opening.

A Best of Fest screening will take place this coming Saturday 8 November 2014 at Adelaide Studios including the 21 finalists plus a showcase of films from the UK's 2013 Oska Bright Film Festival which was the inspiration for the SDSW Festival. The People's Choice Award will be presented at the event to the film voted festival favourite by the public. Voting can be done via the SDSW website (below) or through voting cards available on the day.

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WHERE TO BUY TICKETS: "Best of Fest" Saturday 8 Nov, Adelaide Studios: www.trybooking.com/FVTU
Like our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SitDownShutupandWatch
Visit our Website: www.sitdownshutupandwatch.com
Follow Us on Twitter: @SDSW_Festival #SDSW14

The full list of 2014 finalists and winners are:

FINALISTS	AWARD WINNER
Best Awareness (Our Story)	
<p><i>A List of Things That Really Annoy Me</i> – Beth Barnard, Wild@Heart Community Arts, Victoria, Australia <i>Time Slip</i> – Dawn Fuller - Oyster Project, United Kingdom <i>The Strange Man</i> – Zoe Laidlaw, Actors Ink, South Australia</p>	<p><i>Time Slip</i> – Dawn Fuller - Oyster Project, United Kingdom</p>
Access2Arts (incl logo) Best Music Video Award Finalists:	
<p>The Finalists are: <i>Alles Fur Alles / Everything For Everyone</i> – Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany <i>Love Is A Strange Game</i> – Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany <i>Moon Country</i> – Dream Theatre, Victoria, Australia <i>Where Have All The Penguins Gone?</i> – Encounter Centre, South Australia</p>	<p><i>Alles Fur Alles / Everything For Everyone</i> – Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany</p>
Best Animation Award Finalists:	
<p><i>A List of Things That Really Annoy Me</i> – Beth Barnard, Wild@Heart Community Arts, Victoria, Australia <i>Being Successful</i> – Wild@Heart Community Arts <i>Café Chat</i> – North Melbourne Institute of Technology (NMIT), Work Education Centre, Victoria, Australia <i>Penguin & Panda Love Story</i> – Jane Hewitt, Tutti Arts, South Australia</p>	<p><i>Café Chat</i> – North Melbourne Institute of Technology (NMIT), Work Education Centre, Victoria, Australia</p>
SA Film Corporation Most Original Film Award Finalists:	
<p><i>Alles Fur Alles / Everything For Everyone</i> – Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany <i>Love Is A Strange Game</i> – Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany <i>Our Story</i> – William Gregory, Tutti Arts, South Australia</p>	<p><i>Our Story</i> – William Gregory, Tutti Arts, South Australia</p>
The Hive Award Finalists:	
<p>Arts Project Australia, Victoria, Australia Encounter Centre, South Australia North Melbourne Institute of Technology (NMIT) Work Education Centre, Victoria Tutti Arts Incorporated, South Australia Wild@Heart Community Arts, Victoria, Australia</p>	<p>Wild@Heart Community Arts, Victoria, Australia</p>
Funniest Film Award Finalists:	
<p><i>Cow Story</i> – Tutti Arts & Clare Film Group Workshop, South Australia <i>Next Factor</i> – Caleb Rixon, Victoria, Australia <i>A Penguin & Panda Love Story</i> – Jane Hewitt, Tutti Arts South Australia</p>	<p><i>Next Factor</i> – Caleb Rixon, Victoria, Australia</p>
Best Special Effects Award Finalists	
<p><i>Eye TV</i> – James Kurtze, Tutti Arts, South Australia <i>Geister (Ghosts)</i> – David Nenninger/Barner 16, Hamburg Germany <i>Lisa's Story</i> – Lisa Reid, Arts Project Australia, Victoria</p>	<p><i>Eye TV</i> – James Kurtze, Tutti Arts, South Australia</p>
Arts Access Australia Best New Media / Video Art Award Finalists:	
<p><i>Dexter Aliens</i> – James Kurtze, Tutti Arts, South Australia <i>Geister (Ghosts)</i> – David Nenninger/Barner 16, Hamburg, Germany</p>	<p><i>Dexter Aliens</i> – James Kurtze, Tutti Arts, South Australia</p>
Best of Festival Finalists:	
<p><i>Joe & Sarah</i> – AbleVision, Ireland <i>The Sea Reminds Me</i> – Ray Jacobs, Shropshire, United Kingdom <i>Time Slip</i> - Dawn Fuller/Oyster Project, Ireland</p>	<p><i>The Sea Reminds Me</i> – Ray Jacobs, Shropshire, United Kingdom</p>