



Meilleur Documentaire au Festival du film de Whistler

«KIVALINA V. EXXON» de Ben Addelman

PHI Films est heureux d'annoncer que KIVALINA V. EXXON a remporté hier le prix du Meilleur Documentaire au Festival du film de Whistler. Le documentaire – réalisé par Ben Addelman, produit par PHI Films et DRM Productions et distribué par Entertainment One (eOne Films) – y était présenté en première mondiale ce week-end.

Ce qu'en a pensé le jury: *The jury unanimously recognized KIVALINA V. EXXON for "humanizing global warming and bringing home the fact that global warming is now, not somewhere in the distant future."*

Face aux conséquences désastreuses du réchauffement climatique, la presqu'île de Kivalina, située au nord-ouest de l'Alaska, est menacée de disparition. En 2008, le village Inupiat fait trembler les géants de ce monde en déposant une action en justice contre certaines des plus grandes compagnies pétrolières et minières, dont ExxonMobil Corp.

Pour mieux comprendre cette lutte, Ben Addelman s'est rendu sur place, a filmé le quotidien du village, en a écouté les traditions, les espoirs et les craintes. Épaulé par le travail époustoufflant de Steve Cosens à la photographie, Addelman nous offre des témoignages saisissants dans des paysages d'une beauté rare. Beauté si ingénue que l'avenir de Kivalina s'impose au spectateur comme d'autant plus inhumain. KIVALINA V. EXXON donne voix à cette détresse.

Réalisateur engagé, Ben Addelman a fait ses premières armes en tant que caméraman auprès d'une ONG basée au Kosovo. Deux ans après son documentaire DISCORDIA (co-réalisé en 2004 avec Samir Mallal), il tourne BOMBAY CALLING, mis en nomination pour le prix Gemini du Meilleur documentaire à caractère social ou politique. En 2008, il termine NOLLYWOOD BABYLON, un documentaire sur l'industrie cinématographique du Nigéria en compétition à l'édition 2009 du Festival de Sundance. Ben Addelman sera au Whistler Film Festival pour présenter son film.

www.kivalina-film.com

Whistler Wraps Most Successful Festival To Date

«Monsieur Lazhar» remporte le Prix du public à Whistler

The eleventh annual Whistler Film Festival (WFF), which wrapped on Sunday night, has secured an international reputation as an emerging force on the Festival circuit with the announcement of two new high profile partnerships with Los Angeles and China as well as an unprecedented 42 screenings, 65 premieres, and more high caliber films and talent than ever before.

"This year's fest marked the beginning of our second decade as a film festival," says WFF Executive Director and Founder Shauna Hardy Mishaw. "With eleven years now behind us and two significant international initiatives underway, our festival was catapulted to the world stage. To put it in perspective, we know we're still the young fest on the circuit but our goal is to ensure that Whistler is a must-attend festival for filmmakers, industry and audiences alike. The combination of that plus our early December timing (in the heart of awards season), proximity to Los Angeles and Vancouver (the third largest film production centre in North America and Canada's digital media centre), and setting (the premiere mountain resort in North America), gives us enormous potential to become a pre-eminent world film festival of major significance, alongside the other big players."

QUEBEC DIRECTOR PHILIPPE FALARDEAU'S "MONSIEUR LAZHAR" WINS WFF AUDIENCE AWARD -- Quebec director Philippe Falardeau's *Monsieur Lazhar*, which had its British Columbia Premiere at the festival, won over audiences' hearts taking home the WFF Audience Award.

WFF Audience Award runner up was Rasta: *A Soul's Journey* (dir: Stuart Samuels). Other audience favorites included three BC films: *Foreverland* (dir: Maxwell McGuire), and *Marilyn* (dir: Christopher Petry), which both had their world premieres at the Festival, and *Doppelganger Paul (Or A Film About How Much I Hate Myself)*, directed by Dylan Akio Smith and Kris Elgstrand, which had its Western Canadian premiere.

The WFF Audience Award is a non-cash prize presented to the highest-rated film as voted by the audience.

UP TO \$50,000 IN CASH PRIZES AND COMMISSIONS -- The Festival continued to support cinematic excellence and awarded up to \$50,000 in cash prizes and commissions. *KEYHOLE*, directed by Guy Maddin, won the \$15,000 Borsos Competition for Best Canadian Feature Film. Mexico's *MACHETE LANGUAGE* (dir: Kyzza Terrazas) won Whistler's second annual \$10,000 New Voices International Feature Competition. The \$2,500 Best Documentary Award was awarded to *KIVALINA V. EXXON* (dir: Ben Addelman), which had its world premiere at the festival.

The 2011 Whistler Film Festival celebrated its 11th edition as one of Canada's leading festivals from November 30 to December 4. It showcased 77 films consisting of 31 features and 46 shorts on four screens in three theatres over five amazing days including 9 World Premieres, 2 North American Premieres, 7 Canadian Premieres, 3 English Canadian Premieres, 24 Western Canadian Premieres, 11 British Columbian Premieres, and 4 Whistler Premieres.