



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2016

Contact: Rhenda Meiser

206-465-9532, rhenda@rhendameiser.com

Seattle's Social Justice Film Festival announces 2016 awards—Women directors seize prizes

Seattle—The Social Justice Film Festival announced the winners of its fifth annual festival held last month. The two-week festival screened 52 films from around the world.

Several prizes went to women, including Pacific Northwest filmmakers Rachel Talalay from British Columbia and Jessica Plumb from the Olympic Peninsula.

On the Farm—Best Narrative Feature—is a dramatization chronicling Vancouver's Downtown Eastside missing women during serial killer Robert Pickton's active years. Using a combination of fictional and real characters, the film retells the narrative of real-life events placing the women's stories front and center (directed by Rachel Talalay).

Safe Passage—Bronze Jury Prize for Short Film—features two Northwest tribes working to save the Salish Sea and protect their traditional fishing grounds in the face of growing pressure for fossil-fuel exports through Pacific Northwest waterways (directed by Jessica Plumb).

Jackson—Gold Jury Prize for Feature Film—is an intimate, unprecedented look at the lives of three women caught up in the issues of abortion access at Mississippi's last remaining abortion clinic (directed by Maisie Crow).

"These provocative films left us dazzled by their artistry and the filmmakers' passion for justice. They were part of a stellar lineup of films dedicated to mending injustice and inequality," said Festival Director Anne Paxton.

Director's Choice film humanizes the struggle for citizenship

The festival also awarded its Director's Choice Award to the feature-length documentary *East of Salinas*. This film follows an undocumented 3rd grader who dreams of becoming an engineer. As deportation and gang violence threaten his future, he begins to understand what it really means to be "born in Mexico."

2016 Awards

Director's Choice Award

East of Salinas, directed by Laura Pacheco (USA)

Gold Jury Prize – Feature

Jackson, directed by Maisie Crow (USA)

Silver Jury Prize - Feature

The Good Mind, directed by Gwendolen Cates (USA)

Bronze Jury Prize - Feature

In Our Son's Name, directed by Gayla Jamison (USA)

Gold Jury Prize – Short

Transit Zone, directed by Frederik Subei (Scotland/UK)

Silver Jury Prize - Short

Surviving International Boulevard, directed by Sian Taylor Gowan (USA)

Bronze Jury Prize - Short

Safe Passage, directed by Jessica Plumb (USA)

Best Narrative Feature

On the Farm, directed by Rachel Talalay (Canada)

Inspirational Justice Award

Truth Seekers, directed by Lani Cupchoy (USA)

Best Narrative Short

Tadaima, directed by Robin Takao D'Oench (USA)

Best Documentary Micro-Short

Invisibility, directed by Sarah Emery (Australia)

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Based in Seattle, Wash., the Social Justice Film Festival showcases bold and creative films on social issues that shape our humanity. To learn more, visit socialjusticefilmfestival.org.

###