

European Cinema Wins In Fantasporto 2008

“Rec”, “Opium – Diary Of A Madwoman”, “The Lovebirds” And “Triangle” Are The Big Winners Of Fantasporto 2008

With general praise for the quality of the selection, the latest edition of Fantasporto, Portugal's leading film festival, has just ended. So much said the members of the jury of the three competitive sections (Fantasy, Directors Week and Orient Express).

Spanish “Rec” by Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza, Hungarian “Opium – Diary of a Madwoman” by Janos Szasz, Portuguese/ American production “The Lovebirds” by Bruno de Almeida and Chinese “Triangle” by Johnnie To, Tsui Hark and Ringo Lam, are some of the winners of the 28th edition of the Oporto International Film Festival- Fantasporto.

The 18th Directors Week winner was the Hungarian film “Opium – Diary of a Madwoman” by Janos Szasz which also took home the recently created Manoel de Oliveira Award. Also primed in the film the extraordinary performance by actress Kirsti Stubo.

Director Bruno de Almeida, whose career started in Fantasporto with the awarded short “The Debt” followed by “On the Run”, came back with his latest, “The Lovebirds”, with Michael Imperioli, Ana Padrão and John Ventimiglia, to win the Special Award of the Directors Week.

But it was in the Fantasy competition that the recent production of Spanish cinema came to full glory. “Rec” by Jaume Balagueró and Paco Plaza, received a 6 minute ovation in the end of the screening, and became soon afterwards the winner of the Fantasporto 2008 Grand Prix-Best Film Award.

Confirming the present vitality of the Spanish, the screening of “El Orfanato” by Juan Antonio Bayona, produced by Guillermo del Toro (Best actress for Belen Rueda and the Direction awards), and “La Habitación de Fermat” by Rodrigo Sopeña e Luis Piedrahita (best screenplay and Méliès D'Argent awards). Both to be very soon released theatrically in Portugal.

A frequent winner in Fantasporto, Danish cinema did not disappoint.

“How to Get Rid of Others” by Anders Klarlund received the important Fantasy Special Award.

The Official section Orient Express distinguished with the Best Oriental Film award the Chinese “Triangle” by three famous directors, Ringo Lam, Johnnie To and Tsui Hark. “Breath” by well known director Kim Ki Duk was primed with the Special Orient Express Award, celebrating a very strange love story.

Visitors in Fantasporto included real icons of the film world, namely an actor who has played in his long career both God and the Devil, Max von Sydow, a Woman in Red, the

celebrated Kelly LeBrock who came to Oporto for the opening of “The Mirror” in which she plays the leading role, and a Portuguese director, Fernando Lopes, whose body of work includes, among others a film about boxing, a few good scoundrels and some women on the verge of many breakdowns.

Fernando Lopes was, like Max von Sydow, the recipient of a Fantasporto Career Award.

A second time visitor to Oporto, a city she loved the first time, was Oscar nominated actress Karen Black.

Fernando Lopes, one of the directors of the Cinema Novo, received a Career Award. His films “Crónica dos Bons Malandros”, “Belarmino”, “O Delfim “ and “98 Octanas” were shown in a retrospective. The director also became an accidental actor in “The Lovebirds” by Bruno de Almeida, screened in the Directors Week Competition, rightfully playing the role of a film director.

The list of guests included most of the directors of the films in the competitions, with 99 year old and Oporto born director Manoel de Oliveira, leading the way. Also a noted presence was Jack Sholder, a former winner of the Best Film Award in Fantasporto 1988 with “The Hidden” and, this year, doing jury duty.

Around 115,000 visitors and spectators animated the streets of downtown Oporto, walking to the Rivoli Theatre or to the nearby Sá da Bandeira Theatre and filling the city with great enthusiasm.

The festival closing party, the Vampires Ball brought, once again, many impersonators who danced to the sound of live music and DJ’s.

The 2009 Fantasporto will be held, as usual, in the last week of February till the beginning of March in the World heritage City of Portwine.

Welcome to Fantasporto 2009!

PALMARÉS FANTASPORTO 2008 / FANTASPORTO 2008 AWARDS

SECÇÃO OFICIAL CINEMA FANTÁSTICO/OFICIAL FANTASY SECTION

GRANDE PRÉMIO MELHOR FILME FANTASPORTO 2008 /Best Film Award: REC

– Jaume

Balagueró, Paco Plaza (Esp/Spa)

PRÉMIO ESPECIAL DO JURI/Special Prize of the Jury: HOW TO GET RID OF OTHERS

– Anders Ronnow Klarlund (Din/Den)

MELHOR REALIZAÇÃO/Best Direction: JUAN ANTONIO BAYONA – El Orfanato (Esp/Spa)

MELHOR ACTOR/Best Actor: MARC BORKOWSKI – The Ungodly (EUA/USA)

MELHOR ACTRIZ/Best Actress: BELÉN RUEDA – El Orfanato (Esp/Spa)

MELHOR ARGUMENTO/Best Screenplay: LA HABITACION DE FERMAT – Luis Piedrahita,
Rodrigo Sopeña (Esp/Spa)

MELHOR FOTOGRAFIA/Best Cinematography: GÁBOR KAMONDI – Dolina –
Zoltan
Kamondi (Hun)

MELHOR CURTA-METRAGEM/Best Fantasy Short: ROJO RED – Juan Manuel
Betancourt
(Col)

MENÇÃO HONROSA DO JURI INTERNACIONAL/Special Mention of the Jury: I'M
A
CYBORG, BUT THAT'S OK – Chan-wook Park (Cor Sul/South Kor)

18ª SEMANA DOS REALIZADORES/18th DIRECTOR'S WEEK

PRÉMIO MELHOR FILME SEMANA DOS REALIZADORES /Best Film Award
Directors Week:
OPIUM, DIARY OF MADWOMAN – Janos Szasz (Hun)

PRÉMIO ESPECIAL DO JÚRI/Special Prize of the Júri: THE LOVEBIRDS – Bruno de
Almeida (Por)

MELHOR REALIZADOR/Best Director: ROY ANDERSSON - You, The Living
(Sue/Swe)

MELHOR ACTOR/Best Actor: SASSOM GABAI – The Band's Visit – Era Kolirin
(Isr/Fra)

MELHOR ACTRIZ/Best Actress: KIRSTI STUBO – Opium, Diary of a Madwoman –
Janos Szasz (Hun)

MELHOR ARGUMENTO/Best Screenplay: STEVE BUSCEMI, DAVID SCHECHTER
– Interview
(EUA/USA)

SECÇÃO OFICIAL ORIENT EXPRESS / ORIENT EXPRESS COMPETITIVE SECTION

PRÉMIO MELHOR FILME ORIENT EXPRESS/Best Film Award Orient Express: TRIANGLE

- Ringo Lam, Johnnie To, Tsui Hark (HK)

PRÉMIO ESPECIAL DO JÚRI/Special Jury Award: BREATH – Kim Ki Duk (Cor Sul/South Kor)

PRÉMIO MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT/ MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT AWARDS

PRÉMIO MÉLIÈS DE PRATA/ Méliès D'Argent: LA HABITACION DE FERMAT – Luis

Piedrahita, Rodrigo Sopeña (Esp/Spa)

PRÉMIO MÉLIÈS DE PRATA CURTA-METRAGEM/Méliès D'Argent Short Film: ARK –

Grzegorz Jonkajtys (Pol)

HOMENAGEM/HOMAGE

CINEMATOGRAFIA HOMENAGEADA: Cinema Dinamarquês (Danish Cinema)

PRÉMIO DA CRÍTICA

The Critics Jury of Fantasporto 2008 has decided to grant its Award to:

O Júri da Crítica do Fantasporto 2008 decidiu atribuir o prémio a:

THE BAND'S VISIT – Eran Kolirin (Isr, Fra)

PRÉMIO DO PÚBLICO

The Audience Award went to:

O Prémio do Público foi atribuído a: REC – Jaume Balagueró, Paco Plaza (Esp/Spa)

PRÉMIO DE CARREIRA/ CAREER AWARD

Max Von Sydow

Fernando Lopes