

Press information for British-Irish film festival "britspotting"

Wednesday, 23rd April 2008

britspotting 08: This year's awards and a thank you to the attending filmmakers

This year's British-Irish film festival britspotting came to a close in Berlin with its awards ceremony last Wednesday, 16th April 2008.

"Special People", a charming and lively comedy about teenagers in wheelchairs, won the audience award in the feature film competition. We would like to thank director Justin Edgar and actors David Proud and Jason Maza for visiting the festival and answering all the audience's questions. Justin Edgar receives a prize consisting of a post-production/online editing package worth 14,000 euros sponsored by Pictorion/Das Werk.

The prize for Best Short was won by Jamie Griffiths' "The One and Only Herb McGwyer Plays Wallis Island", an ironic and simultaneously poignant mocking of music stars. The prize is 1000 euros worth of production equipment from sponsors 25p*CineSupport.

Britspotting had the privilege of welcoming many other filmmakers this year. Director Rupert Wyatt, director of photography Philipp Blaubach, producer Adrian Sturges, and executive producer Tristan Whalley all made themselves available to the audience for questions after the screening of opening night film "The Escapist". Director Asif Kapadia presented his second big feature film "Far North" and director Joanna Hogg attended the screening of her first, the critically-acclaimed "Unrelated". The audience was given a deeper understanding of thriller "Jetsam" by director Simon Welsford and editor Ned Baker. Documentary "In Prison My Whole Life" was presented in cooperation with Amnesty International's Ferdinand Muggenthaler. The author of the book on which the film was based, Michael Schiffmann, and human rights expert and friend of Mumia Abu-Jamal, professor Linn Washington, were also present for a discussion after the film.

Short film aficionados also had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with many of the filmmakers. Director Lilly LaMia along with her crew were at the screening of their experimental short "Bulk Haul". Producer Kaleem Aftab attended his film "Mash Up". In britspotting's "Mixed Bag" line-up, directors Steve Watson ("The Hardest Goal"), Harry Wootliff ("Trip"), and consultant Richard Batty ("Ripple") were in attendance. Director Graham Eatough presented his short "Missing" in the "Family Ties" reel. The "Club Des Femmes" line-up welcomed directors Clio Barnard ("Random Acts of Intimacy"), Lynne Marsh ("Venus...I See Blue" and "Cowgirl & Future Stories"), as well as Club Des Femmes curators Selina Robertson and Sarah Wood from London.

From 23rd to 29th April britspotting will be at Filmmuseum Potsdam with its School of Life section. Selected features, documentaries and short films for and about teenagers will be shown in the original English. Following the screenings there will be the possibility of attending workshops relating to the films.

From the end of April to the start of May britspotting is also going on tour to Cologne and Stuttgart. Selected films will be shown at the Kölner Filmhaus between 24th and 27th April. From 1st to 7th May britspotting can be found at the Corso International cinema in Stuttgart.

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