



## WEB FEST AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT 24<sup>TH</sup> RAINDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

### ***BLOOD, SWEAT & CHOKE, DISCOCALYPSE AND 20 SECONDS TO LIVE WALK AWAY WITH THE TOP AWARDS***

**LONDON – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016:** The Raindance Film Festival today announced its award winners for its fourth annual **Web Fest**.

This year, both the Web Fest and VR Arcade were included as part of the Festival's **Raindance Lab – Future of Film**. This strand featured alternative platforms of filmmaking and took a look at the increasing attention these platforms are gaining internationally.

**The Raindance Independent Series Awards** ceremony, where the Web Fest winners were announced, took place on Sunday afternoon in London. Winning series' were selected from 10 categories by a panel of Festival jury members.

Sol Rikweda's ***Blood, Sweat & Choke***, which follows three young fighters as they hustle to reach the Ultimate Fighting Championship, received the award for **Best British Series**.

**Best International Series** and the **Raindance Discovery Award** were given to Dirk Rosenlöcher's ***Discocalypse***. Written, directed and produced by Rosenlöcher, the series follows a young, hung-over man whose memories of the previous night reveal that his adventures were infested with zombie-like monsters.

**Shield 5** also walked away with two awards: **Critics Choice Award** and **Best Writing** for Adam Dewar. Directed by Anthony Wilcox, the series follows a man determined to prove his innocence when he is arrested for his involvement in a diamond heist and the subsequent death of his colleague.

The **Special Festival Award**, which was selected by the Web Series programme team, went to Ben Rock's ***20 Seconds to Live***. A mix of horror and comedy, various characters in the series meet their untimely demise in twisted, fun, and oftentimes, gory situations.

On honouring ***20 Seconds to Live*** with the **Special Festival Award**, head programmer for Web Fest, Lydia Schoenberger commented, "*It epitomizes all the qualities of a good web series; the writing is economical, it manages to surprise in every episode, and the cast is both sharp and witty.*"

Also selected by Festival jury members, the award for **Best Director** went to Christin Baker for *Maybelle*, which looks at a 35-year-old Southern Virginian lesbian who has to come to terms with the fact that she is still in love with her childhood best friend.

Tiphaine Haas was honoured with the **Best Lead Actor** trophy for her role in Shannon Renaudeau and Florent Sabatier's *Young Graduate*. Haas plays a 24-year-old Generation Y graduate looking for her dream job and purpose to her life.

**Best Ensemble Cast** was awarded to Kacie Anning, Sarah Amanious and Madeleine Jones for *Fragments of Friday*. The series, which is also directed and written by Anning, is a comedy about a group of 20-somethings who herald the arrival of the weekend, only to spend the rest of it wondering what happened.

**Best Achievement in Production** went to Tony E. Valenzuela's *The Fourth Door*, a story of one woman's journey as she navigates the strange and dangerous world of Limbo.

Dominik Moll's *News From Planet Mars* closes the Festival this evening at Vue Piccadilly in London.

The Raindance **Virtual Reality Audience Award** will be announced at the Closing Night Gala.

Main partners of the 24<sup>th</sup> Raindance Film Festival include Lexus, Aon, Century Club, Strand Palace Hotel and Vue Cinemas.

#### **RAINDANCE INDEPENDENT SERIES AWARDS - FULL LIST OF WINNERS**

**Best Writing** - Adam Dewar - *Shield 5*

**Best Directing** - Christin Baker - *Maybelle*

**Best Lead Actor** - Tiphaine Haas - *Young Graduate*

**Best Ensemble Cast** - Kacie Anning, Sarah Armanious, Madeleine Jones - *Fragments of Friday*

**Best Achievement in Production** - *The Fourth Door*

**Raindance Discovery Award** - Dirk Rosenlöcher - *Discocalypse*

**Critics Choice Award** - *Shield 5*

**Best British Series** - *Blood, Sweat & Chokes*

**Best International Series** - *Discocalypse*

**Special Festival Award** - *20 Seconds To Live*

~ENDS~

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## **ABOUT RAINDANCE FILM FESTIVAL**

### **Discover. Be Discovered.**

Listed by Variety as one of the world's top 50 'unmissable film festivals', Raindance showcases features, shorts, music videos, virtual reality films and web series by filmmakers from the UK and around the world celebrating and supporting independent, new and alternative filmmakers not just during our 12 day festival but throughout the year.

Raindance Film Festival is officially recognised by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences USA, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and the British Independent Film Awards. Selected shorts will qualify for Oscar® and BAFTA nominations. British short films that play in competition and all British features that play in 2016 will be eligible for entry for the 2016 British Independent Film Awards BIFA.

## **ABOUT RAINDANCE – THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT FILM**

Raindance is dedicated to fostering and promoting independent film in the UK and around the world. Based in the heart of London, Raindance combines [Raindance Film Festival](#), [Training Courses](#), which are offered throughout the year through its 11 international hubs and the prestigious [British Independent Film Awards](#) .