



24TH RAINDANCE FILM FESTIVAL COMPETITION WINNERS REVEALED

The Shepherd, Gozo and Zen Dog among the big winners

LONDON - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016: The Raindance Film Festival today announced its award winners at a special ceremony in London.

Hosted by Raindance Founder, Elliot Grove, jury members Joanna Lumley and Johnny McDaid were also in attendance to present awards to the winners.

The winning films were selected from 14 categories by the Festival's jury members, which also included Stephen Fry, Imelda Staunton, Olivia Colman, Matthew Lewis, Nicholas Pinnock and conceptual artist David Datuna, among many others.

With the 24th edition coming to a close on Sunday, the Festival received a **record-breaking number of submissions** from **98 countries**, the highest it has received to date, and screened **108 feature films** and **85 short films**.

With newly introduced strands including **Women in Film, LGBT, a VR Arcade and China Day**, the Festival also showcased its fourth annual **Web Series**, second annual **Co-production Forum**, a **Music** strand and also hosted an array of creative industry panels, including the ever popular **Live! Ammunition!** event, which provides filmmakers with the opportunity to pitch ideas for their films to a panel of industry executives.

Legendary British Filmmaker **Ken Loach** received the Festival's first **Raindance Auteur Award** and participated in a memorable discussion about his iconic career in the industry.

The Shepherd was the biggest winner of the Festival, receiving three awards: **Best Film, Best Director** for Jonathan Cenxual Burley and **Best Actor** for Miguel Martin. A film about corporate greed, *The Shepherd* follows a man whose home and livelihood is threatened by a big construction company that will stop at nothing to take his land.

Best Screenplay was awarded to Joaquin del Paso and Lucy Pawlak for *Panamerican Machinery*, a film about a group of employees who discover their dead boss in the back of their office warehouse.

Camila Romagnolo received the **Best Actress** honour for her role in *Hortensia*, for which she skillfully portrays a woman whose life takes a turn for the worst, but when she finds a letter written by her fourteen-year-old self, it reinvigorates her motivation to fulfill her aspirations.

Miranda Bowen's **Gozo** was awarded **Best UK Feature**. The film follows a couple who have decided to immigrate to an idyllic Mediterranean island only to discover that they are unable to escape the horrors of their past.

Best Documentary went to LGBT film **Growing Up Coy**, about a young Colorado family's highly publicized legal battle for their six-year-old transgender daughter's right to use the girls' bathroom at school.

Łukasz Grzegorzek's **Kamper** received the **Discovery Award** for **Best Debut Feature**. The film follows a young couple whose relationship is challenged by the husband's immaturity and they must decide whether their relationship should continue.

The Raindance Team selected this year's recipients of the **Indie Award** and **Film of the Festival Award**.

The **Indie Award** went to Rudolf Buitendach's **Selling Isobel**. Based on true events that took place in London, the film shines a light on the global sex slave industry and is a harrowing story of survival, following a woman who is kidnapped, drugged and raped by several men over 3 days before finally managing to escape.

The **Film of the Festival Award** went to Rick Darge's **Zen Dog**. The film follows a man whose daily routine and comfortable life is altered when he takes up lucid dreaming and discovers more than he bargained for.

The film generated a lot of buzz during the Festival, particularly from Raindance Founder Elliot Grove who stated that, "*We chose **Zen Dog** as Film of the Festival because of the spirit in which it was made. It takes on a meditative magic carpet ride of the Dreamworld and looks at how we can influence both our dreams and waking life. The film cleverly weaves in the spiritual with the philosophical.*"

As a result of this win and as per Raindance tradition, Rick Darge will be asked to direct next year's Official Festival Trailer.

Of the five Ibero-American films selected to participate in this year's **Co-Production Forum**, Tiahoga Ruge's **The Bicycle** received the **Raindance Co-Production Best Potential for Brand Partnership Award, supported by Imaginative Exposure**.

The film was chosen by creative marketing agency, **Imaginative Exposure** for a free Brand Relationship Script Analysis. Managing partner of Imaginative Exposure, Aaron Wileman stated, "***The Bicycle** was selected for its apparent natural ability to integrate brand relationships through the potential of visual elements, storyline integration and communications partnership possibilities.*"

Emmanuelle Nicot's **A l'Arraché (Snatched)** and Rob Savage's **Healey's House** were the big winners in the Shorts Programme, with **Snatched** receiving the award for **Best Short** and **Healey's House** winning **Best UK Short**.

Snatched follows two young foster children as the strength of their friendship is threatened by circumstances beyond their control and **Healey's House** looks at the relationship of a young couple who travel from England to Scotland to address a haunting memory from their past. As the events unfold, the motivation behind their actions becomes increasingly dubious.

The top **Music Video Award** went to **Joy** – with music by artists Joy’s Apartment, the video is a stop motion multiplex of thrashed cardboard boxes, photography, a paper cut and paint. It tells the story of everyday places and of the off feeling of standing on the sidelines in solitude watching it all.

The Audience Award for Best Virtual Reality Film went to **6x9**, a virtual experience on solitary confinement in a US Prison, created by The Guardian and directed by Francesca Panetta. This is the first VR Award at Raindance.

Dominik Moll’s **News From Planet Mars** will close the Festival on Sunday, October 2nd at Vue Piccadilly in London.

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

FULL LIST OF WINNERS

Best Film - *The Shepherd*

Best Director – Jonathan Cenxual Burley (*The Shepherd*)

Best Actor – Miguel Martin (*The Shepherd*)

Best Actress – Camila Romagnolo (*Hortensia*)

Best Screenplay – Joaquin del Paso and Lucy Pawlak (*Panamerican Machinery*)

Best UK Feature – *Gozo*

Best Documentary Feature – *Growing Up Coy*

Discovery Award/Best Debut Feature – *Kamper*

Indie Award – *Selling Isobel*

Film of the Festival Award – *Zen Dog*

Raindance Co-Producion Best Potential for Brand Partnership Award, Supported by Imaginative Exposure – *The Bicycle*

Best Short Film - *A l'Arraché (Snatched)*

Best UK Short Film – *Healey's House*

Best Music Video - *Joy*

Audience Award for Best VR Film – **6x9**

FULL LIST OF JURY MEMBERS

Anna Friel (*Pushing Daisies, Limitless*)
Billie Piper (*Dr. Who, Secret Diary of a Call of Girl*)
David Datuna (American conceptual artist)
Estrella Araiza (*Vendo Cine, Guadalajara International Film Festival*)
Fionnuala Halligan (*Chief Critic and Reviews Editor at Screen Daily*)
Imelda Staunton (*Vera Drake, Harry Potter series*)
Ivan Corbisier (*Director of Brussels Film Festival*)
Jack Davenport (*Pirates of the Caribbean series, A United Kingdom*)
Jeremy Irvine (*War Horse, The Railway Man*)
Joanna Lumley (*Absolutely Fabulous, The Wolf of Wall Street*)
Jodie Whittaker (*Broadchurch, Attack the Block*)
Johnny McDaid (*Snow Patrol*)
Jon Salmon (*Byte Entertainment, Talk Talk*)
Kate Muir (*Chief Film Critic at The Times*)
Maria Ingold (*FilmFlex Movies, mireality*)
Mária Rakušanov (*VR Lead at Samsung Mobile*)
Martin Roberts (*Homes Under The Hammer, Wish you Were Here*)
Matthew Lewis (*The Harry Potter series, Me Before You*)
Mike Gamble (*Epic Games*)
Nicholas Pinnock (*Top Boy, Fortitude*)
Olivia Colman (*The Night Manager, Tyrannosaur*)
Stephen Fry (*Wilde, V For Vendetta*)
Tim Robey (*Film Critic at The Daily Telegraph*)
WIZ (*Weekender, The Young Victorians*)

~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](#) .

ABOUT IMAGINATIVE EXPOSURE

Imaginative Exposure is an agency created to bring a revised energy and vision to Brand Partnerships with film. A strong team that brings a dynamic mix of film production experience and deep client and agency marketing expertise. We are not bound by the way things have always been done, allowing any member of the team to present innovative solutions for old challenges. This unique culture generates a 'Medici Effect' of strategic and creative innovation.