

FILM INDEPENDENT'S



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**FILM INDEPENDENT ANNOUNCES AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS
OF 2010 LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL,
PRESENTED BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES**

Christopher Morris' *Four Lions* wins Best Narrative Feature

Mark Landsman's *Thunder Soul* wins Best Documentary Feature

LOS ANGELES (June 27, 2010) – Today Film Independent, the non-profit arts organization that produces the Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival, announced its 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival audience award winners before the Closing Night film, *Despicable Me*. The Los Angeles Film Festival, presented by *The Los Angeles Times*, with its central hub at L.A. LIVE, began Thursday, June 17 and ended today.

The Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature went to *Four Lions* directed by Christopher Morris and the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature went to *Thunder Soul*, directed by Mark Landsman. Roberto Hernández and Geoffrey Smith's *Presumed Guilty* won the Audience Award for Best International Feature.

The Audience Award for Best Short Film went to *Dock Ellis & the LSD No-No*, directed by James Blagden. The video for OK Go's *This Too Shall Pass*, directed by James Frost, OK Go, and Ssyn Labs won the Audience Award for Best Music Video.

As previously announced at the Festival Awards Ceremony at CHAYA Downtown, Pernille Fischer Christensen's *A Family* took home the Jury Narrative Award, and J. Clay Tweel's *Make Believe* won the Jury Documentary Award. Best Ensemble Performance was awarded to Sabrina Lloyd, James Urbaniak, Lynn Cohen, Harry Chase, Nate Smith, and Kamel Boutros for their performance in Adam Reid's *Hello Lonesome*. Jury awards for the Short Film Competition were given to Pablo Larcuen's *My Invisible Friend* for Best Narrative Short, Tomasz Wolski's *The Lucky Ones* for Best Documentary Short, and Beomsik Shimbe Shim's *The Wonder Hospital* for Best Animated Short Film.

The 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival screened over 200 feature films, shorts, and music videos, representing more than 40 countries. This year, the Festival received more than 4,700 submissions from filmmakers around the world. The final selections represent 28 World, North American, and U.S. premieres, which more than doubled from 2009. The number of films competing in the narrative and

documentary competition categories also increased this year from 13 to 18, of which half are World premieres.

Awards were given out in the following categories:

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature

Winner: *Four Lions* directed by Christopher Morris
Writers: Christopher Morris, Jesse Armstrong, and Sam Bain
Producers: Mark Herbert, Derrin Schlesinger
Cast: Riz Ahmed, Arsher Ali, Nigel Lindsay, Kayvan Novak, and Adeel Akhtar
Film Description: (England) Never one to shy away from taboo subjects, celebrated British satirist Christopher Morris tackles modern jihadism in this comedy of terrors about four bumbling suicide bombers in training.

This award is given to the narrative feature audiences liked most as voted by a tabulated rating system. Select narrative feature-length films screening in the following sections were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature: Galas, Narrative Competition, International Showcase, Summer Screenings, Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, Community Screenings, The Beyond, and Special Screenings.

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature

Winner: *Thunder Soul*
Director: Mark Landsman
Producers: Keith Calder, Mark Landsman, Jessica Wu
Featuring: The Kashmere Stage Band, Conrad O. Johnson
Film Description: A high school band unlike any other, the Kashmere Stage Band was a worldwide sensation in the '70s. Thirty-five years later, the band reunites to pay tribute to the man who made it all possible.

This award is given to the documentary feature audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system. Select documentary feature-length films screening in the following sections were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature: Galas, Documentary Competition, International Showcase, Summer Showcase, Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, Selections from the Ambulante Film Festival, Community Screenings, and Special Screenings.

Audience Award for Best International Feature

Winner: *Presumed Guilty*
Directors: Roberto Hernández and Geoffrey Smith
Producers: Layda Negrete, Roberto Hernández, Martha Sosa, Yissel Ibarra
Film Description: (Mexico) In Mexico, where 92 percent of convictions are not based on any physical evidence, two lawyers use the documentary lens to expose an abominable justice system and free one innocent man.

This award is given to the narrative feature audiences liked most as voted by a tabulated rating system. Select narrative feature-length films screening in the following sections were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature: Galas, Narrative Competition, International Showcase, Summer Screenings, Outdoor Screenings at the Ford Amphitheatre, The Beyond, and Selections from the Ambulante Film Festival.

Audience Award for Best Short Film

Winner: *Dock Ellis & the LSD No-No*
Director: James Blagden
Producers: Christopher Isenberg, Donnell Alexander, Neille Ilei
Description: Dock Ellis' legendary LSD-fueled no-hitter is revisited by the man himself.

Awarded to the short film audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system. Short films screening in the Shorts Programs or before Narrative Competition, Documentary Competition, or International Showcase feature-length screenings were eligible for the Audience Award for Best Short Film.

Audience Award for Best Music Video

Winner: *This Too Shall Pass*
Directors: James Frost, OK Go, Syyn Labs
Producer: Shirley Moyers
Music: OK Go

This award is given to the music video audiences liked most as voted on by a tabulated rating system.

To download images and clips from the winning films, please visit www.image.net and search 2010 Los Angeles Film Festival. If you do not have an account, please use referral code 1020 and check the Film Festivals box under Interest.

ABOUT THE 2010 LOS ANGELES FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its sixteenth year, the Los Angeles Film Festival is widely recognized as a world-class event, showcasing the best of new American and international cinema and providing the movie-loving public with access to some of the most critically acclaimed filmmakers, film industry professionals, and emerging talent from around the world.

The Festival features unique signature programs including the Filmmaker Retreat, Ford Amphitheater Outdoor Screenings, Poolside Chats, and more. Additionally, the Festival screens short films created by high school students and has a special section devoted to music videos.

Over 200 features, shorts, and music videos from more than 40 countries make up the main body of the Festival.

The Los Angeles Film Festival is presented by the Los Angeles Times and is supported by L.A. LIVE and Premier Sponsor ZonePerfect® Nutrition Bars and Principal Sponsors Kodak and Subaru. Special support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Academy Foundation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Standard, Downtown LA is the official Host Hotel, American Airlines is the Official Airline Partner, WireImage is the Official Photography Agency, and PR Newswire is the Official Breaking News Service of Film Independent.

More information can be found at LAFilmFest.com

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

Film Independent is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit arts organization that champions independent film and supports a community of artists who embody diversity, innovation, and uniqueness of vision. Film Independent helps filmmakers make their movies, builds an audience for their projects, and works to diversify the film industry. Film Independent's Board of Directors, filmmakers, staff, and constituents are comprised of an inclusive community of individuals across ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, and sexual orientation. Anyone passionate about film can become a member, whether you are a filmmaker, industry leader, or film lover.

With over 250 annual screenings and events, Film Independent provides access to a network of like-minded artists who are driving creativity in the film industry. Film Independent offers free Filmmaker Labs for selected writers, directors, and producers; provides cut-rate services for filmmakers; and presents year-round networking opportunities. Film Independent's mentorship and job placement program, Project:Involve, pairs emerging culturally diverse filmmakers with film industry professionals.

Film Independent produces the Los Angeles Film Festival, celebrating the best of American and international cinema, and the Spirit Awards, a celebration honoring films and filmmakers that embody independence and dare to challenge the status quo.

For more information or to become a member, visit FilmIndependent.org.

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