

For Immediate Release

**SEE FEST, South East European Film Festival**

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7<sup>th</sup> South East European Film Festival awards go to Turkish, Bulgarian, Slovak, Croatian, Montenegrin, Slovenian, Hungarian and Serbian films

(Los Angeles, May 8, 2012) ~ South East European Film Festival, SEE Fest 2012 concluded Monday night at UCLA's Bridges Theater in Los Angeles with the screening of the Turkish epic **FUTURE LASTS FOREVER**, an exploration of the parallel pasts and research of Anatolian elegies directed by Özcan Alper, which also won *Bridging the Borders* award for best feature film of the festival. Honorable Mention went to another Turkish film, **DO NOT FORGET ME ISTANBUL**, a collection of seven stories by seven directors under artistic direction of Turkey's auteur Hüseyin Karabey. Both awards are traditionally presented by **Cinema Without Borders**, festival's media sponsor.

Seventeen industry people served as jury members, awarding diverse films and unique voices for which this boutique festival is well known. Young Bulgarian-American filmmaker Kristina Nikolova won Best Debut Feature award for **FAITH, LOVE AND WHISKEY**, following an expat's journey between two homes; Slovak elegiac journal of music recordings of Roma singers **CIGARETTES AND SONGS** by Marek Šulík and Jana Kovalčíková won Best Documentary, with Honorable Mention going to Croatian **GABRIEL** by Vlatka Vorkapić; two shorts, **THE VISIT** from Slovenia's Miha Mazzini, and **COLD SHOWER** from Hungary's Orsy Nagypál shared Best Short (fiction) award, while German production **MURDER REVISITED** by Serbian filmmaker Milan Miletić won award for Best Documentary Short.

Cinematography jury's feature award went to **DO NOT FORGET ME ISTANBUL**, for overall excellence in visual storytelling, and in particular, the segment 'The Jewish Girl' and cinematographer, **Baris Ozbicer**. Best cinematography in documentary category was awarded to

**Momir Matović** from Montenegro whose images beautifully captured the spirit of the passing and irretrievable moment in his memorable documentary **PERSEVERANCE ...SPIRIT...BREATH.**

Winner of this year's Audience Award was Romanian **HELLO! HOW ARE YOU?**, directed by Alexandru Maftai, romantic comedy which showed another face of Romania and South Eastern Europe not often seen on the big screen.

[Juries](#) and awards of the 7<sup>th</sup> South East European Film Festival included: [Bridging the Borders Award](#), with jurors **Bijan Tehrani**, editor-in-chief, Cinema Without Borders; **Kevin Cassidy**, international news editor, The Hollywood Reporter; and **Fareed C. Majari**, director of the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles. [Best Documentary Award](#), with jurors **Margit Kleinman**, director, Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades; **Arnold Schwartzman**, Oscar-winning filmmaker and designer; **Valentina Ganeva**, film editor; [Best Debut Feature Award](#), with jurors **Ana Maria Bahiana**, author and film critic; **Matthew Mishory**, filmmaker; and **Zeljko Marasovich**, film composer; [Best Short Film, Best Short Documentary Awards](#), with jurors **Prince Gomolvilas**, playwright; **Jelena Mrdja**, actress; **Marsha Goodman**, EMMY-winning casting director; and **Jelena Erceg**, visual effects artist. [Best Cinematography Award](#), feature and documentary film, with jurors **Boris Schaarschmidt**, cinematographer; **Michael Pessah**, cinematographer; **Nicholas Fahey**, cinematographer; and **Hans Diernberger**, visual artist.

#### **About SEE FEST**

Founded in 2002 and incorporated in 2006, the South East European Film Festival, SEE FEST is the leading voice in the U.S. for the presentation of cinematic and cultural diversity of South East Europe. Annual Festival and year-round programming bring to American audiences films that tell a larger story about South East Europe, and unlock the delicate doors into human existence in this troubled region. SEE FEST also serves as the hub for cultural exchange, and resource for scholars and filmmakers on cinema and cultures of the region.

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