



Press Release: Sept 26, 2016

Lunenburg Doc Fest Wraps and Announces Award Winners

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia — The 3rd Lunenburg Doc Fest concluded on Sunday evening after four days of evocative films, fantastic audience attendance, and an expanded awards presentation.

The festival, presented at the newly renovated Lunenburg Opera House, showcased nine feature film screenings, a short film program, a Youth and a Seniors' program, a TEDx-style talk by Industry Programs Director of Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Elizabeth Radshaw, and filmmaker Q&As. The Festival also introduced an industry series hosted at the Lunenburg Arms Hotel & Spa on Friday and Saturday with experts from CBC Atlantic, National Film Board Atlantic Studio and Hot Docs.

The Awards Ceremony took place before the closing night film, *Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story*. The award winners:

Seed: The Untold Story, directed by Taggart Siegal and John Betz, was chosen to receive the **Best Feature Documentary** and the **Audience Award**. "We are honored that Lunenburg Doc Fest has recognized **Seed** for both of these awards," states Betz. "It's an encouragement that this issue can reach many people around the world who may not be aware of the dramatic decline of seeds and the movement of committed people who are growing daily in an effort to reverse the tide of the multinational corporate control of our seed supply."

The world premiere of **Seeing Twice** about legally blind photographer Bruce Hall, directed by César Martínez from Los Angeles, California, won **Best Short Film**. "Winning the Best Short Film Award has been an amazing moment," said Martínez, "much like when Bruce Hall taught me that we can see twice and rethink the possibilities of distorting, playing, and experimenting with the documentary genre."

The **Best Atlantic Filmmaker** prize went to **John Hopkins**, for **Bluefin**, a tale of epic stakes set in North Lake, Prince Edward Island, known as the "tuna capital of the world". John Hopkins was present to accept the award. "I was honoured and happy to have the film selected and screened before a sold out audience at Lunenburg Doc Fest," states Hopkins. "Winning the Atlantic Filmmaker Award is the triple crown."

Lunenburg Doc Fest awarded a \$1000 Bursary to a Nova Scotia student pursuing post-secondary film studies. This award went to Rose-Marie Daniels from Port Williams, NS, a Horton High School graduate who will be attending Sheridan College for a Bachelor Degree in Film and Television.

"We are grateful for a supportive audience, our generous sponsors and partners, the engaging attending filmmakers, and the response to our industry series," says Pamela Segger, Executive Director of the Festival. "Lunenburg Doc Fest had hundreds of submissions from sixty-one countries and excellent turnout for every screening. We are delightfully exhausted but look forward to getting started on next year's event."

Jury members for the Feature Documentary Award were award-winning writer and director Jason Buxton (NS), broadcast journalist and documentarian Christine McLean (NB), and last year's Feature Film Winner, John Rowe from California. The Atlantic Filmmaker and Short Film Awards were juried by

animator and founder of Carbon Arc Cinema, Siloen Daley (NS), documentary producer-director Donna Davies (PEI), and filmmaker and story editor Megan Wennberg (NS).

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***Lunenburg Doc Fest** showcases documentary films that entertain, educate, and inspire, creating a cultural experience and place of connection between filmmakers and film enthusiasts in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. The festival is presented with the generous support from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and the Department of Canadian Heritage.*

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