



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***WINNERS OF THE SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL  
INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2012 ANNOUNCED***

**Fourteen films focusing on the theme of mental well-being have been selected to receive an award at the annual Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival International Film Awards 2012 ceremony.**

Returning for its sixth year, the SMHAFF International Film Awards are the culmination of the Festival's international open submission competition, with categories ranging from Animation to Long Drama. This year's competition saw almost 100 entries from Scottish, British and European filmmakers, as well as entries from as far afield as Canada, Australia and India.

The winning films, chosen by a panel drawn from arts and mental health contexts, cover subjects as diverse as post-traumatic stress disorder from a female war veteran's perspective from the UK (*You Bring Something Back*), to a short film on an Alzheimer's sufferer's trip to buy food, from Italy (*Pollicino*).

The filmmakers will receive their awards at a ceremony at Edinburgh Filmhouse on Wednesday 24th October, 5.45pm until 8pm, where clips of the winning films will be screened to an audience of invited guests and members of the public, who can reserve free tickets through The Filmhouse Box Office: 0131 228 2688 or at [www.filmawards.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.filmawards.eventbrite.co.uk)

Below are the winners and runners up that have been already been selected, with the special **Jury Prize** winner to be announced on the night.

***SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH FILM FESTIVAL 2012 AWARDS: WINNERS***

**Short Drama**

**Winner : *Pollicino***

Director: Cristiano Anania, Italy, 2012

A person with Alzheimer's disease is asleep on the couch. The house is a mess. The daylight filters from the windows. The need for food makes the man go out; a series of post-its to help him find his way back. The bread is bought, and the man gets ready to return home. As he comes to a crossroads, he changes direction; perhaps to an awareness of a whole new world.

**Highly Commended: *You Bring Something Back***

Director: Michelle Arbon, UK, 2012

For some female soldiers returning to the UK from active duty, everyday civilian life can become a nightmare as they deal with the symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Long Drama**

**Winner: *Colour***

Director: Lynsey Miller, UK, 2012

When 11-year-old Holly meets Congolese boy Andre, he offers her friendship and a reprieve from her difficult home life with a sick mother. Their happiness hangs in the balance though, as Holly's mum's mental illness worsens and Andre delivers some devastating news.

**Highly Commended: *Dylan's Room***

Director: Layke Anderson, UK, 2012

A mother finds solace in her son's deserted bedroom, rummaging through drawers, making discoveries and confronting the past.

**Animation**

**Winner: *All That Glisters***

Director: Claire Lamond, Scotland, 2012

As Clare moves from childhood she strives to create a personal way of dealing with her Dad's illness from asbestosis. A stop-motion adaptation of a short story by Scottish author Anne Donovan, with a soundtrack by singer-songwriter Karine Polwart.

**Highly Commended: *Marvin***

Director: Mark Nute, UK, 2010

Narrated by Steve Coogan, *Marvin* tells the story of an unusual little boy and the adventure he has when he loses his common sense.

**Highly Commended: *Growing Space***

Director: Kate Broadhurst, UK, 2011

An animated documentary about a small charity which makes a huge impact on the lives of adults suffering from mental health problems, using the transformational healing process that comes from gardening and a community spirit.

**Personal Narrative**

**Winner: *The Winner Loser***

Director: Darren Hercher, Scotland, 2011

Daniel MacNee can't remember his own past since a devastating illness destroyed his memory function twenty-two years ago. Danny has created an extraordinary way of coping and navigating through life. Filmed over a year, the documentary is an intimate portrait of a man determined to piece together his own history and overcome the massive challenges he faces every day.

## **Short Documentary**

### **Winner: *Maraquita***

Directors: Matthew Cleaves and George Clipp, Australia, 2012

Maraquita spent 22 years of her life in Sunbury Asylum on a diagnosis that was found to be incorrect. This film explores her injustice as remembered by her son Tony.

### **Highly Commended: *Capicua (Palindrome)***

Director: Roger Villarroja, Spain, 2011

A beautifully-shot exploration of the parallels between the very beginning of our lives, and the very end.

## **Long Documentary**

### **Winner: *The Empress Hotel***

Directors: Irving Savat and Allie Light, USA, 2009

The Empress Hotel is home to a rarified clientele; ninety people with mental illness or addiction who have lived on the streets of San Francisco. Not every person can stay on meds or get clean, yet out of hopelessness and chaos, a community is formed.

## **Educational Documentary**

### **Winner: *Transvisions***

Producer: Alison Wren, Scotland, 2011

*Transvisions* features candid conversations with transgender people that challenge the stigma and misunderstandings surrounding transgender identities.

### **Highly Commended: *Head Case***

Director: Matt Pinder, Scotland, 2012

Based on the Book by Pamela Stephenson Connolly, this is a guide for young people to help deal with their own and their friends' and family's' mental health problems.

ENDS

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**For more information and images please contact Alison Young, Media and Communications Coordinator: [alisonsmhaff@gmail.com](mailto:alisonsmhaff@gmail.com) T. 0141 572 1661 M. 07891 038 053**

**SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH FILM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2012:** Wednesday 24 October, 5.45pm - 8pm, Filmhouse Cinema, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ. Free. Tickets through Filmhouse Box Office: 0131 228 2688 or [www.filmawards.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.filmawards.eventbrite.co.uk)

**For more information see [www.mhfestival.com](http://www.mhfestival.com)**

A PDF of programme of the full Festival 2012 programme can be downloaded from [www.mhfestival.com/media.php](http://www.mhfestival.com/media.php)

**ABOUT SMHAFF:** Now in its sixth year, the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival is one of Scotland's most diverse cultural events, encompassing music, film, visual art, theatre, dance, and literature. The annual

festival takes place in venues across Scotland throughout October, aiming to support the arts and challenge preconceived ideas about mental health.

By engaging artists, connecting with communities and forming collaborations, we celebrate the artistic achievements of people with experience of mental health issues, exploring the relationship between creativity and the mind, and promoting positive mental health and well-being.

**PARTNERS: The festival is supported by The Mental Health Foundation in association with the following national partners:** Mental Health Foundation, Scotland's anti-stigma campaign 'see me', NHS Health Scotland, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, Lanarkshire Recovery Network, Voices of Experience, IRISS, University of Strathclyde.

The festival is also supported by hundreds of arts, voluntary, community and health organisations across Scotland. These groups programme diverse, innovative events in their own towns and cities on behalf of the festival, utilising local talent and creativity.

**The Mental Health Foundation** is a leading UK mental health charity that conducts robust research, provides practical solutions to help everyone lead mentally healthier lives, and works to raise public awareness and improve mental health services for the entire population. The Foundation is proud of the vital role it plays in hosting, developing and managing the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival [www.mentalhealth.org.uk](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk)