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SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2016 FILM COMPETITION WINNERS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

The Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival (SMHAFF) is delighted to announce the winners of its long-running International Film Competition and special guests who will take part in Q&As.

The film programme this year was created almost entirely from submissions to the competition, which is open to any work that addresses mental health and is keen to encourage diverse and innovative perspectives. A record 1600 submissions were received, 300% more than in 2015. The winners in each category will be honoured at a ceremony on Tuesday 11 October at the CCA in Glasgow, when the Grand Jury Prize will be announced. All of the award-winning films will be screened at the CCA in the five days following the awards ceremony. In addition, the festival have asked Rick Anthony and Duncan Marquiss of The Phantom Band to create a new score for the 1930s avant-garde drama *Borderline*.

SMHAFF's 10th film programme, showing over 50 features and shorts from 2 October to 2 November, includes three European Premieres, four UK Premieres and three Scottish Premieres. Many screenings will be followed by Q&A sessions with filmmakers and/or documentary subjects.

Richard Warden, film curator at SMHAFF, said:

"Two years in a row, our International Film Competition's submission numbers have quadrupled. Filmmakers around the world are increasingly keen to tackle mental health, and have growing awareness of events such as the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival and their role in challenging stigma. We're hugely encouraged by these developments. It's a privilege to bring attention to these films and to welcome people involved in this crucial work."

WINNERS: SMHAFF INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITION 2016

BEST ANIMATION: *Lima* (Afshin Roshanbahkt, Vahid Jafari | Iran | 2015)

A gorgeous stop motion short about a son's struggle to keep the memory of his father alive, with an evocative score by Icelandic composer Stein Thor.

BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY: *One Foot in Reality* (Ramtin Nikzad | USA | 2016)

A woman's unflinching account of the devastating effects sexual abuse and schizophrenia have had on her life as a young girl and a mother.

BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY: *A Family Affair* (Tom Fassaert | Netherlands, Denmark | 2015)

Riveting yet tender, a masterful exposure of disquieting secrets as the director confronts his 95-year-old grandmother with her actions and how they caused the family to unravel.

BEST SHORT DRAMA: *crISIS* (Ali Kareem Obaid | Iraq, Italy | 2015)

A searing account of a man who is burdened by grief and post-traumatic stress after losing his wife to a suicide bomb in Baghdad.

BEST FEATURE DRAMA: *David* (Jan Těšitel | Czech Republic | 2015)

A stunning debut about a troubled young man who leaves the suffocating security of his family in a precarious search for independence, with a remarkable break-through performance by Patrik Holubar.

BEST YOUTH PROJECT: *Talk It Out* (St. Paul's High School (Glasgow), Into Film | UK | 2015)

A heart-warming drama written and directed by Glasgow students about challenging mental health stigma among their school peers.

EXPERIMENTAL AWARD: *Shoulder the Lion* (Erinnisse Rebisz, Patryk Rebisz | USA, France, Ireland, Poland | 2015)

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An innovative and visually arresting documentary following three people who lost everything and used the power of art to reinvent their futures.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD: **#MyEscape** (Elke Sasse | Germany | 2016)

A gripping documentary using footage shot by refugees on their mobile phones intercut with interviews that connect the outer journeys they went on with the ones that took place within.

ANTI-STIGMA AWARD: **TRANSition** (Robert Cunningham | Ireland | 2016)

A brave and honest documentary about a young transgender man from Ireland and his on-going struggle with dysphoria.

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE AWARD (sponsored by VOX SCOTLAND): **I Wish I Was That Bird** (Jeffrey Krolick | USA | 2015)

A candid portrait of outsider artist James Condos, filmed over a period of three years, following him as he opens up about childhood trauma and seeks to find his place in the community.

SPECIAL GUESTS FOR SELECTED SCREENINGS

- Director **Tom Fassaert** will attend the Scottish Premiere of **A Family Affair**, a startling and very moving personal documentary, which made a huge impact as the Opening Gala film at IDFA last year and has already won numerous awards on the festival circuit. In addition, Fassaert will deliver a Scottish Documentary Institute masterclass on personal filmmaking. **Rob Fassaert**, father of the filmmaker and prominent in the documentary, will also be present at these events.
- Director **Chloe Sosa-Sims** will attend the European Premiere of **Dan and Margot**, an intimate non-fiction account of a young woman's experience with schizophrenia.
- Director **Jeffrey Krolick** will attend the European Premiere of **I Wish I Was That Bird** with the documentary's outsider artist subject, **James Condos**.
- Editor **Janine Dauterich** will attend the Scottish Premiere of **#MyEscape**, which chronicles the harrowing journeys of refugees in their own words and images.
- **Virginia Linn**, subject of the documentary on recovery from sexual abuse, **One Foot in Reality**, will attend the screening of the film in the shorts programme **Women, Interrupted**.
- Directors **Erinnisse Rebisz** and **Patryk Rebisz** will attend the UK Premiere of **Shoulder the Lion**, which features boxer **Katie Dallam**, the inspiration for Oscar-winning film *Million Dollar Baby*, who became a painter after suffering brain damage.

FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- The European Premiere of **Touched with Fire**, a drama about bipolar disorder starring **Katie Holmes** based on lived experience of director **Paul Dailo**.
- **Rick Anthony** and **Duncan Marquiss** of **The Phantom Band** creating an improvised live score for the avant-garde 1930s drama **Borderline**, which was ground-breaking in its treatment of both race relations and sexuality at the time, directed by Scot **Kenneth Macpherson** and starring **Paul Robeson** and the poet **HD** (Hilda Doolittle).

For listings of award-winning films and other highlighted events, please see below.

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Dan and Margot

European Premiere

Jake Chirico, Chloe Sosa-Sims | Canada | 2015 | 75m | 15 | Documentary

James Gillespie's High School, Edinburgh

Mon 10th Oct | 7pm–8.45pm

CCA, Glasgow

Sat 15th Oct | 4pm–6pm

Margot believes she is being stalked and tormented by someone named Dan, but discovers she has schizophrenia. Now, she struggles to build a life as a young independent woman, while trying to reclaim the years she lost to the disorder. A brave and honest look at mental health, stigma and moving forward. Followed by a Q&A with director Chloe Sosa-Sims.

International Film Awards Ceremony

CCA, Glasgow Tue 11th Oct | 6.30pm–8.30pm

The Scottish Mental Health Arts & Film Festival's annual open film submission gives filmmakers from all over the world a platform to engage with new audiences, explore new realities and challenge the perceptions of mental health through their work. This year, the International Film Competition saw 1,600 entries received from over 100 countries, including dramatic features, documentaries, shorts and animations. The annual not-to-be-missed awards ceremony honours the very best of these titles, and announces the winner of the Grand Jury Prize. Expect to be moved and inspired by excerpts from, and the stories behind, these impressive films. All ages.

#MyEscape

Scottish Premiere

Elke Sasse | Germany | 2016 | 90m | 15 | Documentary

Arabic, English, German, Syrian, Somali, Tigrinja with English subtitles

Winner of the *Human Rights Award* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Screening with ***crISIS***

Ali Kareem Obaid | Iraq, Italy | 2015 | 10m | Drama

Winner of *Best Short Drama* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

CCA, Glasgow Wed 12th Oct | 6pm–8pm

In recent years, thousands of refugees have left their countries, families and old lives behind in search of safety, human rights and freedom. This heart-rending documentary uses footage shot by refugees from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Syria, intercut with unflinching interviews that connect the outer journeys they went on with the ones that took place within.

Preceded by ***crISIS***, a searing drama about a man who is burdened by grief and post-traumatic stress after losing his wife to a suicide bomb in Baghdad.

Presented with *Take One Action*. Followed by a Q&A with *#MyEscape* editor Janine Dauterich.

Shoulder the Lion

UK Premiere

Erinnisse Rebisz, Patryk Rebisz | USA, France, Ireland, Poland | 2015 | 75m | 15 | Documentary

Winner of the *Experimental Award* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

CCA, Glasgow Wed 12th Oct | 8.30pm–10.15pm

Filmhouse, Edinburgh Mon 24th Oct | 6pm–7.45pm

A blind photographer questions the power of images in our visually saturated culture, a hearing-impaired musician is forced to give up his dream of the stage, and a brain-damaged boxer and painter

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searches for her new place in life. A stunning and innovative film about losing everything and reinventing your future. Followed by a Q&A with the directors.

Borderline with live score

Kenneth Macpherson | UK | 1930 | 71m | 15 | Drama
Cast: Paul Robeson, Eslander Robeson, Hilda Doolittle
CCA, Glasgow Thu 13th Oct | 7pm–8.45pm

Directed by Scottish filmmaker Kenneth Macpherson and starring poet HD (aka Hilda Doolittle) along with the renowned performer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson, *Borderline* was groundbreaking for its progressive treatment of race and sexuality. This silent film is also renowned for being ahead of its time in representing inner psychological states through avant-garde techniques. Accompanied by an improvised live score from Rick Anthony and Duncan Marquiss of *The Phantom Band*.

A Family Affair

Scottish Premiere
Tom Fassaert | Netherlands, Denmark | 2015 | 110m | 15 | Documentary
Dutch & English with English subtitles

Winner of Best Feature Documentary in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

CCA, Glasgow Saturday 15th October, 7-9pm
Filmhouse, Edinburgh Tue 18 Oct, 6pm-8.15pm

When Tom Fassaert's 95-year-old grandmother invites him to visit her in South Africa, all he knows about her are his father's stories of the 1950s femme fatale who put her two sons in a children's home. An unexpected confession makes things more complicated than he could have ever imagined. Presented in association with *Luminate*. Followed by a Q&A with director Tom Fassaert and his father, Rob Fassaert.

Director Tom Fassaert will also lead a masterclass on the rewards and challenges of personal filmmaking. In association with the *Scottish Documentary Institute* and *Luminate*.

Masterclass: Edinburgh College of Art
Tue 18th Oct | 2pm–5pm

Women, Interrupted (shorts)

CCA, Glasgow Sat 15th Oct | 1pm–3pm

From a young woman's struggle with bipolar disorder in a psychiatric ward to a mother's unflinching account of living with schizophrenia, this is a poignant selection of short documentaries and dramas that portray the resilience of women at defining stages of their lives.

Hide And Seek

Camille Fleury | France | 2015 | 24m | Drama

In Sickness

Thomas Edwards | UK | 2016 | 14m | Drama

Morte Segreta (Secret Death)

Michele Leonardi | Italy | 2015 | 13m | Drama

Most Of Us Don't Live There

Laura Marie Wayne | Canada/Cuba | 2015 | 25m | Documentary

One Foot In Reality

Ramtin Nikzad | USA | 2016 | 11m | Documentary

Winner of Best Short Documentary in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Followed by a Q&A with the subject of the film, Virginia Linn

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Youth Perspective (shorts)

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CCA, Glasgow Sun 16th Oct | 1pm–2pm

An inspiring selection of short films addressing mental health, in which young people played key creative roles. Age 12 and up.

Aly

Jasmine Briers | UK | 2015 | 5m | Documentary

Knock Knock

Zeeshan Aslam, Mohsin Iqbal, Juan Plá, Alex Rutenbergs | UK | 2016 | 6m | Drama

Misgivings

Adrian Mead | UK | 2016 | 10m | Drama

Talk It Out

St. Paul's High School/Into Film | UK | 2015 | 11m | Drama

Winner of the *Youth Project Award* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Unbroken

Rob Pritchard | UK | 2016 | 5m | Drama

I Wish I Was That Bird

European Premiere

Jeffrey Krollick | USA | 2015 | 50m | 12 | Documentary

Winner of the *Voices of eXperience Award* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

w/ *Lima*

Afshin Roshanbahkt, Vahid Jafari | Iran | 2015 | 14m | Animation

Winner of *Best Animation* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

w/ *TRANSition*

Robert Cunningham | Ireland | 2016 | 16m | Documentary

Winner of the *Anti-Stigma Award* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

CCA, Glasgow Sun 16th Oct | 2.30pm–4.30pm

I Wish I Was That Bird is a candid and intimate portrait of outsider artist James Condos. Filmed over a period of three years, the documentary follows James as he reveals his childhood trauma, meets other outsider artists, tries to sell his work and seeks to find his place in the community. Preceded by *Lima*, a gorgeous animated film about a son's struggle to keep the memory of his father alive, and *TRANSition*, a brave and honest documentary about a young transgender man. Followed by a Q&A with *I Wish I Was That Bird* director Jeffrey Krollick and the film's subject, James Condos.

David

Scottish Premiere

Jan Těšitel | Czech Republic | 2015 | 80m | 15 | Drama

Cast: Patrik Holúbar, Ondrej Pavelka, Alena Stréblová

Czech with English subtitles

Winner of *Best Feature Drama* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

CCA, Glasgow Sun 16th Oct | 8pm–10pm

Filmhouse, Edinburgh Wed 19th Oct | 6pm–7.45pm

Suffocated by his overprotective parents and tired of being a burden on their lives, a troubled young man decides to leave the security of his family to find himself and his place in life. An intimate coming-of-age story about independence, acceptance and the importance of letting go. *Contains sexualised nudity. Trigger warning: suicide references.*

SMHAFF International Film Competition Winners (shorts)

Woodland Creatures, Leith Walk, Edinburgh

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Thu 20th Oct | 7pm–9pm

Mental health charity Health in Mind teams up with SMHAFF to present a moving and inspiring selection of short films from the festival's International Film Competition. Taking place in Woodland Creatures, one of Edinburgh's most eclectic venues, audiences will be treated to a range of impressive work from around the world.

crISIS

Ali Kareem Obaid | Italy/Iraq | 2015 | 10m | Drama

Winner of Best Short Drama in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Heart of Dust

Louise Keay Bell | UK | 2015 | 6 min | Animation

Winner of Best Animation in SMHAFF's International Film Competition (2015)

Lima

Afshin Roshanbahkt, Vahid Jafari | Iran | 2015 | 14m | Animation

Winner of Best Animation in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

One Foot In Reality

Ramtin Nikzad | USA | 2016 | 11m | Documentary

Winner of Best Short Documentary in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Talk It Out

St. Paul's High School/Into Film | UK | 2015 | 11m | Drama

Winner of the Youth Project Award in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

TRANSition

Robert Cunningham | Ireland | 2016 | 16m | Documentary

Winner of the Anti-Stigma Award in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Touched with Fire

European Premiere

Paul Dalio | USA | 2015 | 106m | 15 | Drama

Cast: Katie Holmes, Luke Kirby, Christine Lahti

GFT, Glasgow Mon 24 Oct | 5.45pm–8.15pm

Filmhouse, Edinburgh Wed 26th Oct | 6pm–8.30pm

Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby shine in this drama about two bipolar patients who feel their poetry is fuelled by emotional highs and lows. When they meet in a psychiatric hospital, a romance blooms. Ultimately, they are forced to examine the consequences of their love for each other. *Contains strong language. Trigger warning: suicide references.*

Good Grief (shorts)

Edinburgh Printmakers

Sat 29th Oct | 7pm–8.30pm

A moving selection of short films to encourage conversations about mortality. Through animation, documentary and drama, we experience the effect a loved one's death has on those left behind, and follow the steps they take towards overcoming grief and embracing a different future. 15 years and up. Curated by BAFTA Scotland New Talent award-winning filmmaker and artist Theresa Moerman Ib, who will also be showing two of her works and leading a post-screening discussion.

crISIS

Ali Kareem Obaid | Italy/Iraq | 2015 | 10m | Drama

Winner of Best Short Drama in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

Grey Area

Jon Barton | Ireland | 2015 | 12m | Documentary

Islander's Rest

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Claudius Gentinetta | Switzerland | 2015 | 18m | Animation

Lima

Afshin Roshanbakht, Vahid | Iran | 2015 | 14m | Animation

Winner of *Best Animation* in SMHAFF's International Film Competition

The Third Dad

Theresa Moerman Ib | UK | 2015 | 10m | Documentary

(When You Are Not Here) Everything Has A Flatness

Theresa Moerman Ib | UK | 2014 | 3m | Experimental

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ABOUT SMHAFF: Now in its tenth year, the Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival is one of Scotland's most striking and provocative cultural events, encompassing music, film, visual art, performing arts, 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, the festival celebrates the artistic achievements of people with experience of mental health problems, explores the relationship between creativity and the mind, and promotes positive mental health and wellbeing.

PARTNERS: The festival is led by the Mental Health Foundation in association with the following national partners: See Me, Scotland's programme to end mental health stigma, Creative Scotland, NHS Lothian, NHS Health Scotland, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Awards For All, The Royal College of Psychiatrists, Lanarkshire Recovery Network, Voices of eXperience (VOX), Forestry Commission Scotland, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, WM Mann Foundation, Merchants House of Glasgow, Bipolar Scotland and *The List* magazine. The festival is also supported by hundreds of arts, community and public organisations across Scotland.

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.

SMHAFF runs from 10-31 October 2016.

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