

The 27th Busan International Film Festival

Awards

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I . Awards

1. New Currents Award

[Winner 1] *a Wild Roomer* | LEE Jeong-hong | Korea

Jury Comment: We were particularly sensitive to the lightness and subtlety of the director's view of his characters. Through his innovative cinematography, he creates original circulations between the characters within a house, and builds a very contemporary universe.

[Winner 2] *Shivamma* | Jaishankar ARYAR | India

Jury Comment: We appreciated the originality and intensity with which the director was able to tell this very contemporary story. Here documentary and fiction meet in an organic and spirited way of making cinema. The generosity of the actors and the scenes create a closeness with this universal story that takes place in an Indian village.

*** New Currents Award Juries**

- Jury President: Serge TOUBIANA (France / President of Unifrance)

- Jury Members: Alain GUIRAUDIE (France / Director)

Kamila ANDINI (Indonesia / Director)

KASE Ryo (Japan / Actor)

LEE Eugene (Korea / Film Producer)

2. KIM Jiseok Award

[Winner 1] *Scents of Wind* | Hadi MOHAGHEGH | Iran

Jury Comment: One award goes to *Scents of Wind* by Iranian director Hadi Mohaghegh, for the impressive strength and beauty of every shot as well as the emotional power of the film composition as a whole. Though it pays tribute to the regretted master Abbas Kiarostami, one can sense the personal voice and vision of its filmmaker, who is also



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impressive as the lead actor of his film.

[Winner 2] *Alteration* | Yalkin TUYCHIEV | Uzbekistan

Jury Comment: One award goes to *Alteration* by Uzbek director Yalkin Tuychev, for the creative way it turns the history of the collapse of the Soviet Union into a meaningful tale, that displaces the usual western centered vision of international events to a different perspective, being presented from the culture and background of its own country, and region, with such strong visual proposals.

*** KIM Jiseok Award Juries**

- Jury President: Jean-Michel FRODON (France / Film Critic)
- Jury Members: OGIGAMI Naoko (Japan / Director)
KIM Hee-Jung (Korea / Director)

3. BIFF Mecenat Award

[Winner 1] *A Table for Two* | KIM Boram | Korea

Jury Comment: The Korean awardee for the BIFF Mecenat Award is *A Table for Two* by Kim Boram. The emotional strength shown in the first half of the film, the deep and secretive inner-self, and the complicated period of affection and conflict between a mother and daughter, is meticulously and elaborately captured in images

[Winner 2] *The Football Aficionado* | Sharmin MOJTAHEDZADEH, Paliz KHOSHDEL | Iran

Jury Comment: The Asian recipient of the BIFF Mecenat Award is *The Football Aficionado* by directors Sharmin Mojtahedzadeh and Paliz Khoshdel. This is a film that shows the will to change the reality that Iranian women are subjected to through the protagonist and her love and energy for football, with a pleasant and well-organized composition, while strongly criticizing the gender discriminatory reality and history in Iran.

[Special Mention]

***Dear Mother, I Meant to Write about Death* | CHEN Siyi | United States / China**

Jury Comment: A film that earnestly examines the topic of life and death through the



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subject of illness and caring between a mother and daughter with a colorful image and steady format.

*** BIFF Mecenat Award Juries**

- Jury Members: WANG Bing (China / Director)

Ossama MOHAMMED (Syria / Director)

KIM Il-rhan (Korea / Director)

4. Sonje Award

[Winner 1] *Southern Afternoon* | LAN Tian | China

Jury Comment: *Southern Afternoon*, directed by Lan Tian, was a pleasantly surprising film that blends in the issues that ethnic minorities in China face within what seems like a story of an ordinary family. It was particularly impressive how the film carefully illustrated the sensitive social issues through the typical genre of drama. The raw acting shown by the actors and mise-en-scènes in the film were also outstanding. There is great joy in finding a film that succeeds in telling a story that suits the short film genre perfectly.

[Winner 2] *I'm Here* | JEONG Eunuk | Korea

Jury Comment: Jeong Eunuk's *I'm Here* fearlessly selected and honestly depicted important themes such as the elderly, nursing care, and gender issues within families. The film deserves great appreciation for its achievement in taking a thorough look at characters who cannot afford an ordinary day in their lives and simultaneously portraying their lives in a cinematic way.

[Special Mention] *Other Life* | ROH Dohyeon | Korea

Jury Comment: For special mention, Roh Dohyeon's *Other Life* was an interesting film to be discussed. This film demonstrated the charm of short films as it carries the story from start to end with minimal settings and characters. The delicate performances of the actors were joyful to watch as they presented various elements of humanity.

*** Sonje Award Juries**



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- Jury Members: Saeed ROUSTAEI (Iran / Director)
HAYAKAWA Chie (Japan / Director)
YOON Gaeun (Korea / Director)

5. Actors of the Year

[Actors of the Year - Male] KIM Youngsung | *Big Sleep* | Korea

Jury Comment: It has been a wonderful time watching the splendid films at the 27th Busan International Film Festival, appropriate to the stature of the festival. Watching the impressive acting of the Actors of the Year candidates as a jury member, I was able to take the chance to ruminate my own acting, as well as become aware of the numerous hidden gems in our films, who have yet to be discovered. I send my congratulations to the awardee and hope that the Busan International Film Festival may shine brighter as a festival for us all.

[Actors of the Year - Female] KIM Geumsoon | *Star of Ulsan* | Korea

Jury Comment: I wish to send a big round of applause to Kim Geumsoon, who displayed an Ulsan-sea-like acting, wide and deep, and also blame my ignorance for being unaware of such brilliant talent. She is an amazing actress, young and refreshing, who is worthy of wide recognition and high acclaim this year.

*** Actors of the Year Juries**

- Jury Members: LEE Young-ae (Korea / Actress)
KIM Sangkyung (Korea / Actor)

6. KB New Currents Audience Award

[Winner] *The Winter Within* | Aamir BASHIR | India / France / Qatar

7. Flash Forward Audience Award

[Winner] *Riceboy Sleeps* | Anthony SHIM | Canada



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8. FIPRESCI Award

[Winner] *Thousand and One Nights* | KUBOTA Nao | Japan

Jury Comment: This film beautifully captures the feeling of loss but also the rebuilding of new life through the stories of two women. It effectively uses the seaside scenery to externalize the inner emotions of the characters.

*** FIPRESCI Award Juries**

- Jury Members: Eija NISKANEN (Finland / Film Critic)

WANG Hsin (Taiwan / Film Critic)

AHN Chi-yong (Korea / Film Critic)

9. NETPAC Award

[Winner] *a Wild Roomer* | LEE Jeong-hong | Korea

Jury Comment: Like its protagonist, the film is doing interior carpentry of a generation, with simple means, but to always surprising, unpredictable and existential effect. Dealing with one of the small mysteries of life - who jumped on the roof of my van? - it finds adventure in the mundane, and the possibility of love in a place one dare not look.

*** NETPAC Award Juries**

- Jury Members: Gerwin TAMSMA (Netherlands / Film Critic)

Tsengel DAVAASAMBUU (Mongolia / Film Producer)

KIM Donghyun (Korea / Festival Director of Seoul Independent Film Festival)



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10. DGK MEGABOX Award

[Winner 1] *Big Sleep* | KIM Taehoon | Korea

Jury Comment: A touching portrayal of interaction and coexistence between a man, who is rough but has a warm heart, and a lonely runaway boy. The two actors, who showed both sturdy and delicate acting, and the thoughtful directorial that embraces the weary souls, leaves a strong impression.

[Winner 2] *Star of Ulsan* | JUNG Kihyuk | Korea

Jury Comment: The film looks into the life of the protagonist, who has been working in a shipyard for a long time after losing their husband, and the background into the life that their family is subjected to. The detailed and realistic portrayal of the characters, who are struggling to survive in the complicated and difficult reality, is memorable.

*** DGK MEGABOX Award Juries**

- Jury Members: JEONG Gayoung (Korea / Director)

JUNG Byounggak (Korea / Director)

JUNG Sekyo (Korea / Director)

11. CGV Award

[Winner] *Greenhouse* | LEE Sol-hui | Korea

Jury Comment: *Greenhouse* is a film that highlights the director's directorial abilities, which gracefully unravels the creative storyline and unpredictable twist in genre. The actors' outstanding candid acting adds tension to the quickly progressing story, and fully immerses the audience, rendering them unable to look away from the screen until the very end. The CGV Award is presented to *Greenhouse* from the Korean Cinema Today – Vision section, a film that raises expectations for director Lee Sol-hui's next project.



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12. KBS Independent Film Award

[Winner] *a Wild Roomer* | LEE Jeong-hong | Korea

Jury Comment: Monstrous production of the year. *a Wild Roomer*, which betrays all expectations and imagination, is perhaps the most atypical film amongst all films that were showcased by the new directors in Busan this year. Capturing the irony of life, created by the inexplicable coincidences and strange encounters, with its characteristically unique sense of rhythm, this film is deserving of suggesting a new blueprint for the potential of Korean independent films, as well as announcing the birth of a new director who is worthy of international recognition.

*** KBS Independent Film Award Juries**

- Jury Members: YOON Seongho (Korea / Director)
CHANG Youngyoup (Korea / Film Journalist)
KIM Yoonmi (Korea / Producer)

13. CGK Award

[Winner] *Hail to Hell* | JUNG Grim (Cinematographer) | Korea

Jury Comment: *Hail to Hell* uses a unique out-of-focus filming technique that suggests that Na-mi and Sun-woo are left alone in the world, but in the final scenes of the film, it is expressed that the two characters will eventually become each other's will to live in the lonely and difficult world. This film's camera uses such image to create cinematic moments that naturally leads the audience along throughout the two characters' journey.

*** CGK Award Juries**

- Jury Members: KIM Hyungkoo (Korea / Cinematographer)
JAE Chang-gu (Korea / Cinematographer)
UM Hye-jung (Korea / Cinematographer)



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14. Critic b Award

[Winner] *a Wild Roomer* | LEE Jeong-hong | Korea

Jury Comment: *a Wild Roomer* is a film that sustains tension until the end by meticulously putting together the loose narrative with a sense of apathy and an underlying sense of humor. The preciseness/meticulousness of this film stands out as it is a mysterious film that blurs the boundaries of human and physical space. As all jury members agree upon such qualities of the film, the Critic b Award will be given to this film.

*** Critic b Award Juries**

- Jury Members: KIM Nayeong (Korea / Film Critic)

KIM Minwoo (Korea / Film Critic)

LEE Sangkyeong (Korea / Film Critic)

15. Watcha Award

[Winner 1] *Peafowl* | BYUN Sung-bin | Korea

Jury Comment: Actor Hae-jun's captivating performance, the camerawork that allows audience to fully focus on the actor, the production design, and the powerful soundtracks all collectively come together, enhancing the quality of the film. It is noteworthy that the coming-of-age story of the main character who faces discrimination and prejudice was illustrated in the frame of a heart-warming family drama.

[Winner 2] *Greenhouse* | LEE Sol-hui | Korea

Jury Comment: The film engages the audience to follow Moonjung, the main character who is trapped in a tragic lifestyle, through to the end. *Greenhouse* depicts characters including people of age, children, and women, each with their own personality and autonomy. Lee Sol-hui's talent as a director was remarkable, as the director created a breathtaking thriller with subject matters that are typically considered ordinary, such as an elderly couple and a caregiver.



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16. Watcha Short Award

[Winner] *Other Life* | ROH Dohyeon | Korea

Jury Comment: Whilst the film progresses with dialogues between characters in a limited space, *Other Life* succeeds to be immersive with excellent directive skills and elements of suspense. The acute portrayals of the power dynamics between the one who paid and the other who got paid, and the relationship that is fragile enough to break apart with just a few words of a stranger, are outstanding.

17. Aurora Media Award

[Winner 1] *Greenhouse* | LEE Sol-hui | Korea

Jury Comment: *Greenhouse* demonstrates a catastrophe and dramatically portrays devastating relationships surrounding socially marginalized individuals through its main character Moonjung. By depicting the drastic crisis of today's society as a solemn and compelling drama, the film made great cinematic achievements.

[Winner 2] *Big Sleep* | KIM Taehoon | Korea

Jury Comment: *Big Sleep* is a warm and solid film. Simple and skillful directing and acting by Kim Youngsung, who played the role of Kiyong, brilliantly accomplishes the theme of healing and salvation. Children's lanterns in the film linger for a while.



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18. Citizen Critics' Award

[Winner] *Birth* | YOO Ji-young | Korea

Jury Comment: The film puts the experience of women's pregnancy to the fore and throws a question to the traditional patriarchal myths. Through the 2 hours and 30 minutes of 'experiencing together', the film allows the audience to think about not only the issue of biological sex but also socially constructed prejudices of the body. We chose the film as an award-winning film because it presented us with a vivid cinematic experience.

19. Busan Cinephile Award

[Winner] *While We Watched* | Vinay SHUKLA | United Kingdom

Jury Comment: This film arouses awareness of the neutrality of the media and the mobocracy. In a situation in which the media, colluded with the vested rights, narrows the public's perspectives through a filter of hatred, the film is selected to be awarded as it raises questions about the attitudes of the media and the public.

20. The Choon-yun Award

[Winner] BAEK Jaeho | Producer | Korea

*** The Choon-yun Award Juries**

- Jury Members: KANG Je-kyu (Korea / Director)

SHIM Jaemyung (Korea / CEO of Myung Films)

YOO Ji-tae (Korea / Actor)

JUNG Hanseok (Korea / Programmer)