

MIFF AWARDS XXI EDITION DELAYED BY THE PANDEMIC SPOTLIGHTS “SEA OF TIME” WITH A HISTORIC SET OF WINS AND A FILM ABOUT (IN)JUSTICE WINS THE DOCUMENTARY CATEGORY

After a long hiatus dictated by the latest CoVid emergency, the XXI edition finally consecrates *Sea Of Time* “best film ever” with a record 10 awards out of 10 nominations. *Making an Exoneree*, made by students, about American’s justice -and injustice- system wins Best Documentary Film.

Over the last two editions, Leonardo Da Vinci's Horse, as many others, went on a long CoVid hiatus that led to virtual events with streaming screenings and a totally different plan of online programming; but on its 21st birthday, MIFF Awards 2021, will also be known for the hard to repeat, memorable and singular first-time triumph that is *Sea of Time*: a nominee and winner in all categories, including Best Film.

Sea of Time, a strongly humanistic Dutch film directed by theater director Theu Boermans in his second feature and featuring Sallie Harmsen already nominated for *Accused - Lucia De B.* in 2016, tells the true story of a dramatically interrupted love where the two protagonists meet again 35 years later. A masterful screenplay written by Marieke van der Pol who previously adapted the novel *Twin Sisters* (2004), which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. As the tale of a bond that gets lost over time, *Sea of Time* is beautifully acted, photographed, edited and directed in a rare harmony of all its parts. Nationally released in 140 theaters the 13th of October, a novel based on the same true story written by Lucie Hubert was released in this same year.

Starting with the joy of an out-of-the-box life followed by a terrible accident and a painful separation, this masterpiece lead us to question if unbearable pain be shared or can it only cause an inevitable estrangement? Will the protagonists be able to give each other a second chance? A real-life story that touches us deep inside and leads to reflect on the "if" and "but" that life entails with a delicate and decisive happy ending.

In the Documentary category, the striking *Making an Exoneree* wins for being a compelling investigation made by 16 students led by a professor and an ex-convict on five stories of the wrongful convictions of those who still claim to be innocent yet are incarcerated for life in the U.S.

Among the feature films nominated, a special mention inevitably goes to the experimental and very effective film *Bovary*, a free contemporary adaptation from Gustave Flaubert's famous novel.

As for the Short Films, in the up to 15 min category, Chinese *Absence* wins the statuette for its suspended atmosphere capable of capturing the viewer with the silences and glances of a couple toward the end of their romance. The French short film *Ayo Nene* earned the statue for the 15-30 min category, depicting the deeply moving story of Alassane, a father who risks everything to stay with his son. And, last but not least, the winner of the Italian category is *Taxiderman*, a documentary about the rare and curious profession of stuffing dead animals exploring the poignant, poetic and sometimes comic truth that comes to light when death is both subject and object.

All the 2021 Nominations are available on www.miffawards.com

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MIFF AWARDS 2022 WINNERS LINEUP

- **BEST FILM**

SEA OF TIME (MAARTEN SWART, producer, THEU BOERMANS, director)

- **BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM**

MAKING AN EXONEREE (ROB AND CINDY DORFMANN, Produttori e Registi)

- **BEST DIRECTING**

SEA OF TIME (THEU BOERMANS)

- **BEST SCREENWRITING**

SEA OF TIME (MARIEKE VAN DER POL)

- **BEST ACTING PERFORMANCE MALE**

SEA OF TIME (GIJS SCHOLTEN VAN ASCHAT)

- **BEST ACTING PERFORMANCE FEMALE**

SEA OF TIME (SALLIE HARMSSEN)

- **BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**

SEA OF TIME (MYRTHE MOSTERMAN)

- **BEST EDITING**

SEA OF TIME (HERMAN P. KOERTS, JOB TER BURG)

- **BEST MUSIC/SOUND DESIGN**

SEA OF TIME (FONS MERKIES)

- **BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR**

SEA OF TIME (REINOUT SCHOLTEN VAN ASCHAT)

- **BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS**

SEA OF TIME (ELSIE DE BRAUW)

- **BEST SHORT FILM up to 15 min**

ABSENCE (WU LANG, director)

- **BEST SHORT FILM 15-30 min**

AYO NENE (DIAKHATÈ DAOUUDA, director)

- **BEST ITALIAN SHORT FILM**

TAXIDERMAN (ROSSELLA LAENG, director)

- **SPECIAL MENTION**

BOVARY (WALTER COUVREUR, producer, JACO VAN DORMAEL, director)