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West Hollywood Film Festival Wraps

Singapore's "Dance of the Dragon" wins top honors

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA -- *Dance of the Dragon*, a powerful, moving drama out of Singapore, took home top honors as the first annual West Hollywood International Film Festival concluded its four-day run of screening more than 100 films at numerous venues throughout West Hollywood July 29-Aug. 1.

Directed by John Radel and starring Jang Hyuk, Fang Wong and Jason Scott Lee, *Dance of the Dragon* (www.danceofthedragonmovie.com) was named Best Festival Picture and captured numerous awards including Best Director, Best Editing, Best Cinematography and a few others.

"This is a fantastic film that we were so proud to be able to premiere. Director John Radel really put his heart and soul into this picture," said Martin De Luca, founder of the first-ever international film festival. "There were so many films that were so great I wish I could have given them all an award."

More than 100 features and shorts were screened at several venues throughout West Hollywood as producers and directors busied themselves doing deals and attending parties, panels, screenings, distribution meetings, networking and many other fun events.

"The diversified lineup of films came from all over the world and really shows that talent lies in many places around this globe," said De Luca.

Rusty Fleming, producer/director of the documentary *Drugwars: Silver or Lead* (www.drugwarsthemovie.com) said that in addition to being entertaining, most of the films presented had a social message too.

“We are thrilled to get the Directors Impact Award which perfectly reflects our mission to wake up America to the horror story that is playing along the US and Mexican borders,” said Fleming.

“Winning the New Technology Award for dramatically improving the quality of a digital video image is really a feather in our cap,” said Robert Lenney, executive producer of the full-length sci-fi comedy feature *Sounds* (www.soundsthemovie.com). The movie, which was presented in Super-Resolution Technology, also won the Best Sci-fi Feature Award. “This is a huge honor because as a dramatic comedy, we didn’t really expect it. But we are getting requests from distributors now, so I’m happy.”

One of West Hollywood International Film Festival’s goals is to recognize and honor outstanding creative excellence in the film and video industry, authenticate rising talent and promote future filmmaking in West Hollywood as well as promote cultural tourism in the area.

“Our major sponsor, 93.1 JackFM really did a great job at promoting the event and their support was greatly appreciated,” said De Luca. “All the volunteers and sponsors were so helpful, WHIFF couldn’t have done it without their support. I know the filmmakers are indebted to their service to help make WHIFF a mainstay now in Southern California. We look forward to WHIFF 2009!”

A full list of the winners and more information can be viewed at www.whiff2008.com including trailers, film photos, film synopsis and cast & crew credits. For more information, call (424) 288-4536.

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About West Hollywood International Film Festival

The West Hollywood International Film Festival was founded by Martin DeLuca to celebrate filmmakers and their films from around the world to West Hollywood. The film festival runs July 29th through August 1st and features events, booths, entertainment, discussion panels and of course a great choice of films to watch. For more information, visit www.whiff2008.com.

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