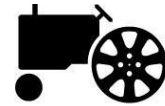




**HILL
COUNTRY**
FILM FESTIVAL



HILL COUNTRY
FILM SOCIETY

Seventh Annual Hill Country Film Festival Comes to a Close

TRANSPECOS Takes Cinema Dulce Best of Fest Award

AUSTIN, Texas (May 2, 2016) – The [Hill Country Film Festival](#) (HCFF), an independent film event held in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, Fredericksburg, Texas, April 28 – May 1, 2016, and presented by the Hill Country Film Society wrapped its seventh annual festival following a spectacular weekend of diverse programming, expert panel discussions and a variety of hosted events.

HCFF screened 15 feature films and 74 short films representing 14 countries. The festival also showcased for the first time a Student Short Film category where eight short films were screened fully produced and directed by high school or college student filmmakers.

Hosted events included the filmmakers' welcome reception at Fritztown Cinema; filmmakers' lounge happy hours; panel discussions; and event parties at Ausländer Restaurant and Biergarten and West End Pizza Company on Main Street in Fredericksburg. The festival was capped by a closing night party and awards ceremony on April 30 at the Nimitz Ballroom at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. A special sendoff reception was held on May 1 at Pedernales Cellars in Stonewall, Texas.

Festival Award Winners

Award winners include:

Cinema Dulce Best of Fest: **TRANSPECOS** (d. Greg Kwedar, U.S., 2016)

Audience Choice Award: **CAREER GIRL** (d. Fortunato Procopio and Johanna Watts, U.S., 2015)

Best Texas Film: **PUTTING THE DOG TO SLEEP** (d. Taylor Washington, U.S., 2014)

Best Feature Film: **BEAR WITH US** (d. William J. Stribling, U.S., 2016)

Best Short Film: **THE FLY** (d. Olly Williams, UK, 2013)

Best Documentary Film: **TOWER** (d. Keith Maitland, U.S., 2016)

Best Student Short Film: **FIDELITY** (d. Ilker Çatak, Germany, 2014)

Best Director: Blayne Weaver in **CUT TO THE CHASE** (d. Blayne Weaver, U.S., 2016)

Best Actress: Benita Robledo in **DEPENDENT'S DAY** (d. Michael David Lynch, U.S., 2016)

Best Actor: Aaron Tevit in **STEREOTYPICALLY YOU** (d. Benjamin Cox, U.S., 2015)

Best Short Screenplay: **BRANDY** (written by Anika Contos)

Best Feature Screenplay: **BABY STEPS** (written by Rebecca Semik)

Festival Program and Photos

The official program for this year's HCFF is available at <http://www.hillcountryff.com/festival/schedule/>.

Festival photos available at https://www.facebook.com/HillCountryFilmFestival/photos_stream.

The 2016 festival is scheduled to be held April 27-30, 2017.

About Festival Sponsors

Hill Country Film Festival is supported by Auslander Restaurant and Biergarten; Barrel and Brine Food Co.; Capital Printing Company; Der Küchen Laden; Dulce Vida Tequila; Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau; Fritztown Cinema; Go Fredericksburg Visitor Guide; Goodwill Industries of Central Texas; H-E-B; KIND Snacks; Lemi Shine; Pedernales Cellars; Ramona Press; Ranch Road Roasters; SAG-AFTRA; Shiner Beers; Sun Radio; TCU Bob Schieffer College of Communication; Texas Association of Film Commissions; Texas Film Commission; Treaty Oak Distilling Co.; Whataburger; and West End Pizza Company.

About Hill Country Film Festival

Set in Fredericksburg, Texas, the Hill Country Film Festival (HCFF) is the vision of its executive director Chad Mathews, an actor, screenwriter, producer, and native Texan. Having participated in the film festival circuit, Mathews came to love the camaraderie and shared respect of those who are committed to the art of independent filmmaking. HCFF was created to celebrate and showcase filmmakers from Texas and around the world and is annually presented by the Hill Country Film Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information, visit www.hillcountryff.com.

About Hill Country Film Society

The Hill Country Film Festival, created in 2010 to celebrate and showcase filmmakers from Texas and around the world, quickly evolved into a non-profit organization with a broader vision. The Hill Country Film Society not only hosts the annual festival, but provides year-round independent film programming in the Texas Hill Country as well as

education in the art of independent film. Its mission is to encourage discovery through visual storytelling and create experiences that educate, inspire and engage. The society relies on its sponsors and members to help achieve its mission and ensure the future of film as part of a vibrant, creative culture. For more information, visit www.hillcountryff.com/film-society.

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