



Léa Pool wins the 2017 WIFTV Artistic Merit Award

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Vancouver, BC (October 10, 2017) – On Friday, October 13th, the Women in Film and Television Vancouver (WIFTV) Artistic Merit Award was presented at the Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) Closing Gala.

The WIFTV Artistic Merit Award is presented to a Canadian feature film at VIFF 2017 directed by a woman.

This year's Artistic Merit Award goes to **Léa Pool**, for the film ***Worst Case, We Get Married*** (*Et au pire, on se mariera*), which she directed and co-wrote with Sophie Bienvenu.

WIFTV would like to extend a special thank you to this year's jury: Carleen Kyle (Writer/Director), Teri Snelgrove (filmmaker/Associate Producer – NFB), and Glynis Whiting (filmmaker).

The jury selected ***Worst Case, We Get Married*** because of its unique delivery of a familiar tale. Léa Pool's expert hand weaves a fractured and poignant story of a young girl whose mind becomes increasingly complex as the story unfolds. Pool took some risks and was unafraid to explore the intersection of adolescence and female identity while taking the audience on a compelling and daring journey that certainly wasn't for the faint of heart. The editing is clean and tight, the lighting is beautiful, and performances are strong. This is without a doubt a filmmaker at the top of her game.

"At a time when gender imbalance is persistent in the film production industry, it is important to recognize and to celebrate the achievements of women filmmakers," said WIFTV's Executive Director, Carolyn Combs. "We are grateful to VIFF for the opportunity to present this award. "

This year's Artistic Merit Award nominees included:

časna?am: the city before the city by Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers

Meet Beau Dick: Maker of Monsters by LaTiesha Ti'si'tla Fazakas and Natalie Boll

Never Steady, Never Still by Kathleen Hepburn

Once There Was a Winter by Ana Valine

Shut Up and Say Something by Melanie Wood

Like a Pebble in the Boot by Hélène Choquette

Rebels on Pointe by Bobbi Jo Hart

Suck it Up by Jordan Canning

In the Waves by Jacquelyn Mills

Maison du bonheur by Sofia Bohdanowicz

Still Night, Still Light by Sophie Goyette

Meditation Park by Mina Shum

Women In Film & Television Vancouver (WIFTV) is an internationally affiliated not-for-profit society committed to advancing, celebrating and promoting the artistic practice and careers of women working in screen-based media.

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