



WIFTV Artistic Merit Award Presented to Two Filmmakers at VIFF: Patricia Rozema and Christy Garland

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY OCT. 12TH, 9 PM

October 12, 2018 (Vancouver, BC) – On Friday, October 12th, the Women in Film and Television Vancouver (WIFTV) Artistic Merit Award was presented at Closing Gala Awards Ceremony of the Vancouver International Film Festival's (VIFF).

The WIFTV Artistic Merit Award is presented to a Canadian film at VIFF 2018 directed by a woman. This year, two films were recognized; a drama and a documentary.

WIFTV would like to extend a special thank you to this year's jury Elisa McRae (Writer/Actor), Aisha Amijee (Executive Director of Voices of Muslim Women), and Ali Liebert (Actor/Producer/Director).

This year's Artistic Merit Award for drama goes to **Patricia Rozema** for the film ***Mouthpiece***, which she directed and co-wrote with Amy Nostbakken and Norah Sadava. This well-crafted film, with a hauntingly beautiful score, took artistic risks in its direction, cinematography and editing. The use of double characters to express Cassandra's inner turmoil grasped the attention of the jury and pulled them in. "*The honest storytelling had me replaying and connecting with **Mouthpiece** in my mind for days later,*" said jury member Aisha Amijee.

The Artistic Merit Award for documentary goes to **Christy Garland** for the film ***What Walaa Wants***, which she directed and shot. The jury selected ***What Walaa Wants*** for its vibrant portrait of a fascinating and dynamic young Palestinian woman. Garland succeeded in creating a raw and shockingly honest film in a form that was simultaneously intimate and expansive.

A special mention also goes to the narrative drama ***The Grizzlies***, directed by **Miranda de Pencier**. It was a very challenging and close decision for the jury.

Other 2018 Artistic Merit Award contenders included:

Edge of the Knife by Helen Haig-Brown

Finding Big Country by Kathleen S. Jayme

Fausto by Andrea Bussman

Firecrackers by Jasmin Mozaffari

Inside My Heart by Debra Kellner

Level 16 by Danishka Esterhazy

The New Romantic by Carly Stone

The Oslo Diaries by Mor Loushy

Quiet Killing by Kim O'Bomsawin
Roads in February by Katherine Jerkovic
A Sister's Song by Danae Elon
Song of a Seer by Aïda Maigre-Touchet
What Is Democracy? by Astra Taylor

About VIFF | viff.org

Founded in 1982, the Greater Vancouver International Film Festival Society is a charitable not-for-profit arts and cultural organization that operates the internationally acclaimed Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) and the year-round programming of the Vancity Theatre at the Vancouver International Film Centre. The Society's mission is to celebrate excellence, promote diversity and foster discovery and innovation in the field of screen-based storytelling. Among the largest film festivals in North America in terms of screenings and attendance, VIFF presents over 350 films and events, plays host to over 400 industry professionals from around the globe and boasts the largest Canadian film program in the world. For its 37th year, VIFF welcomes the world to Vancouver from September 27 - October 12, 2018.

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. Womeninfilm.ca

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