

# Encounters Festival winners announced

The Encounters South African International Documentary Festival announced the winners of the 2009 Audience Award yesterday, Thursday, 23 July 2009.

The Best South African Documentary winner is: *Fokofpolisiekar* "forgive them for they know not what they do" directed by Bryan Little.

And the Best International Documentary winner is: *RIP: A remix manifesto* directed by Brett Gaylor (Canada).

*Fokofpolisiekar* received the highest votes overall.

## Demand for celebrated documentaries

The audience award referee Professor Tim Dunne, head of Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Cape Town analysed 6245 ballot forms submitted by the Cape Town festival-goers.

"It is evident from this year's Encounters that there is a recognisable demand for celebrated documentaries in the country. This year we experienced several sold-out screenings, and held some of the most interesting Q&As and panel discussions," said festival director Mandisa Zitha.

The festival experienced financial difficulties prior to its commencement, before embarking upon a public campaign to raise funds for this year's edition.

Zitha further added that: "The festival funders, partners and Friends of the Festival really made the festival possible. We are grateful that they showed their commitment and enthusiasm for the festival. Of course, it would all be in vain without our audience, who attended in large numbers to get their annual dose of the independent non-fiction genre."

## Record entry from around the world

This year's line-up featured many award-winning films and festival favourites. The final programme of 40 films, including 20 local documentaries, was derived from a record entry of over 600 films from around the world. Of the eight sold-out film screenings experienced during the Festival, four were local.

Between 2 and 19 July, 10 248 documentary lovers went through the Encounters cinemas at the Nu Metro, V&A Waterfront. This is a 25% increase on last year's attendance.

## The top 5 South African films are:

1. *Fokofpolisiekar* by Bryan Little
2. *Rewind* by Liza Key
3. *For Which I am Prepared to Die* by Lindy Wilson
4. *Sea Point Days* by Francois Verster
5. *The Invincibles* by Mark J Kaplan

## The top 5 international films are:

1. *RIP: A remix manifesto* by Brett Gaylor
2. *Waltz with Bashir* by Ari Folman
3. *Burma VJ - Reporting From a Closed Country* by Anders H?gsbro ?tergaard
4. *Music from the Inside Out* by Daniel Anker
5. *Rough Aunties* by Kim Longinotto

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>