



SINY Film Festival Presents Richie Awards Tonight

by Staten Island Advance

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"Greetings From the Shore" took best picture and star Kim Shaw was awarded best actress at the SINY Film Festival Awards ceremony tonight at the Vanderbilt at South Beach.

The Richie awards are named in honor of Richmond County and presented by a long list of local dignitaries and celebrities. Richard Diamond Jr. was the master of ceremonies.

"Greetings From the Shore," filmed mainly in Lavallette, N.J., also took best feature screenplay. The film was produced and directed by Greg Chwerchak and written by Gabrielle Berberich. Ms. Shaw, who had a role in the "Sex and the City" movie, starred with David Fumero of the soap opera, "One Life to Live."

"Greetings from the Shore" was the opening night movie for the festival at the College of Staten Island.

The best Staten Island local film went to "Officer Down," produced by Frank Nasso, son of festival film industry chairman Julius Nasso of Eltingville. Co-producers of "Officer Down" were Joseph Frio and Anthony Marks. "Officer Down" also took best crime drama short.

Christopher DeMaria, a native Staten Islander, took the new filmmaker award for , "Inconvenience."

The best actor award went to Dennis Boutsakaris, a two-time Obie winning actor, for the film, "Calling it Quits." The best director award went to Anthony Tarsitano for "Calling it Quits."

Best cinematography award went to "Waiting for Her," from College of Staten Island alumni Alain Alfaro.

"Rabia," a film by director Muhammad Ali Hasan about a women who feels compelled to blow herself up with explosives on an Israeli beach, took best action short and best short screenplay.

"Academanial!" directed by Gina Guerrieri about a stodgy professor who regains his passion for life, won for best romantic comedy short.

Best documentary feature went to Mr. Laughs, which featured comedian Sal Richards, son Guy and mother Rose Ann.

"In the Wall," directed by Gregory Booth, a film about a pregnant woman and a secretive husband, captured for best horror short.

Best animated short went to "Veterinarian," which glorified that profession. "The Accidental Activist," directed by Andrew Hunt, about a trip to the library that went awry, won best comedic short.

"Refusal 15," directed by Ben Oliver, a story about a woman's journey into the dark side of her soul, won best thriller short.

"Patience," directed by Robert Hackett, about two older women dealing with envy and kindness, won best international short. "Blindness," directed by Helio San Miuell a love story about a shy man and a blind woman, won Best Dramatic Short.

Best Comedic feature went to "Liars," directed by Michael Guerra, about the dating adventures of four friends.

"Rooftop Bees," which won for best documentary short, was directed by Reina Higashitani and featured a Brooklyn man who tends to beehives as a hobby.

Best Performing arts and entertainment film award goes to "SAT-The Musical," about the infamous college entrance exam, directed by Jenn Lewis.

Best science fiction film award went to "Agnieszka," by director Martin Gauvreau who explores an angelic being.

Best family film award went to the "Magic Flute Diaries," directed by Kevin Sullivan as a modern take on Mozart's classic opera.

Time Warner Cable offered to show the films on Channel 1111.

--Contributed by Maura Grunlund