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Posted: Wed., Nov. 10, 2010, 4:00am PT

WIF Foundation awards coin to narrative features

Grant program expands beyond docus and shorts

By PAMELA MCCLINTOCK

For the first time, the annual Women in Film Foundation's Film Finishing Fund included prizes this year for narrative features along with feature docus and shorts.

It's the second year that the cash grants have been provided by Netflix, which supports the org's award program by providing \$50,000 in funding, distribution recommendations and brand associations at screenings.

Winners will have an opportunity to consult with a Netflix exec regarding the marketing and distribution of their films.

The Film Finishing Fund is now in its 25th year. Foundation co-chairs Betsy Pollock and Nancy Rae Stone said 2010 was a record year for submissions, with 140 applications from 11 countries.

The three narrative feature winners were Karin Chien's "Circumstance," Susan Youssef's "Habibi Rasak Kharban" and Frances Lausell's "America."

Docu feature winners were Lisa Gossels' "My So-Called Enemy," Yoav Potash's "Crime After Crime" and Nisha Ligon's "Twiga Stars: Tanzania's Soccer Sisters."

Melissa Dodds won in the narrative short category for "Whakatiki."

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