

AWARDS FROM THE EDGE

Documentary Edge Festival 2010 is delighted to announce that *Last Train Home* (director Lixin Fan) scooped “Best International Feature Documentary” at last night’s award ceremony.

Fan’s sophisticated debut documentary captures the anguish and heartbreak of a family that are separated and are continuing to grow apart. This intimate and candid film highlights the dramatic changes sweeping China and shows what the costs are for families that have to migrate to the city to financially survive. *Stolen* was also highly regarded amongst judges – earning a ‘Special Mention’ during the ceremony, which was held at the Ray Freedman Arts Centre in Epsom.

The International Best Director accolade was shared by both Yoav Shamir for *Defamation*, his controversial, deeply personal and witty look at the place of anti-Semitism in today’s society whereas Zhao Liang was recognized for *Petition*, a passionate piece which took twelve years to complete.

The Documentary Edge Festival expanded the “Local” category this year to further celebrate the passion and dedication of New Zealand filmmakers. Shirley Horrock was flush with awards for her chronicles of the New Dance Group in *Dance of the Instant*. It earned the “Best NZ Short Documentary”, “Best NZ Research” and “Best NZ Educational Documentary” awards in the New Zealand competition. *The Unnatural History of the Kakapo* also hit a home run scooping four awards– “Best NZ Feature Documentary”, “Best NZ Sound”, “Best NZ Cinematography” and “Best NZ Director”.

Gaylene Preston became the very first recipient of the “Outstanding Contribution to NZ Documentary Industry” award, as Documentary Edge recognized her work in the field of real-life story telling.

An award was also presented for the Best Pitch at the Documentary Edge Forum which was given to Wellingtonian Simon Burgin for his project *Bring It on Home*.

Full winners from last night’s ceremony as below:

International Competition

Best Short Documentary - Winner: The Solitary Life of Cranes

Best Feature Documentary - Winner: Last Train Home. Special Mention: Stolen

Best Editing - Winner: Stolen

Best Cinematography - Winner: At the Edge of the World

Best Director - Winner: Yoav Shamir (*Defamation*) **and** Zhao Liang (*Petition*)

New Zealand Competition

Best Short Documentary - Winner: Dance of the Instant. Special Mention: Marching On

Best Feature Documentary - Winner: The Unnatural History of the Kakapo

Best Emerging NZ Filmmaker - Winner: Anna McKessar (*Five Hours with Raja*)

Best Director - Winner: Scott Mouat (*The Unnatural History of the Kakapo*)

Best Cinematography - Winner: The Unnatural History of the Kakapo

Screenrights Best NZ Educational Documentary - Winner: Dance of the Instant

Best Research - Winner: Dance of the Instant

Best Sound - Winner: The Unnatural History of the Kakapo

Best Editing - Winner: Liquid Stone: Unlocking Gaudi's Secrets

Outstanding Contribution to NZ Documentary Industry - Gaylene Preston

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