



Julien Dubuque International Film Festival Wraps, Announces 2022 Winners

MovieMaker Magazine calls JDIFF one of the “Top 50 film festivals worth the submission fee.”

FilmFreeway.com calls JDIFF “one of the top 100 best reviewed festivals in the world.”

(Dubuque, IA - May 2, 2022)

The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival (JDIFF) has wrapped up another successful run of showcasing independent films from around the world. In its 11th year, JDIFF has announced their 2022 Award Winners in seven categories: Best Feature, Best Documentary, Best Cast Ensemble and/or Lead, Best Short I, Best Short II, Best Animation, and Best Use of Music. The winners were chosen from over 120 films that were presented at this year’s Festival.

The 2022 JDIFF winners are:

Best Feature: *Mysterious Circumstance - The Death Of Meriwether Lewis*

(about the historic American explorer who led the famous Lewis and Clark expedition of the Louisiana purchase in 1803)

Best Documentary: *Against All Odds: Surviving the Holocaust* (a film that showcases and memorializes four amazing Survivor stories outside the concentration camps)

Best Cast Ensemble and/or Lead: *Around Robin* (feature film about a young celebrity who receives a letter from a mysterious stalker and develops catalepsy, a condition that paralyzes her whenever she feels threatened)

Best Short I: *Mila* (a war story from a child’s perspective)

Best Short II: *Robert's Village* (a story about the rebuilding of a school for the displaced children in a Ugandan village after the civil war there)

Best Animation: *The Park Bench* (a story about a young girl named Bella whose family ultimately survives a tragedy)

In the **Best Use of Music** category, *Raised up West Side* took the winning spot. The film is a documentary created by Emmy-nominated director and producer Brett A. Schwartz.

Honorable Mentions were given to *Jaded*, a short about a week in the life of a family wrought by tragedy, and *Cat Daddies*, a documentary about the bond between men and their cats.

JDIFF Executive Director Susan Gorrell says about this year's Festival, "It was such an honor to showcase these amazing films at the festival, along with the other nominees. It's always exciting to find out who the jurors chose as the final winners. I'm so very happy for those chosen and for all the films that screened at the festival."

Upon winning Best Feature, Clark Richey who wrote and directed *Mysterious Circumstances*, says, "Meriwether Lewis's death is undeniably an intriguing tale, and, we think, it's smartly delivered in our movie. Fortunately, JDIFF agreed with us, and that's exciting."

Paul Bachow, director and producer of *Against All Odds: Surviving the Holocaust*, shares that "winning the BEST DOCUMENTARY award is such an honor, and is testament to the fact that we truly have a film that touches people's hearts and minds. This film will preserve for the next 500 years the experience of Holocaust Survivors personally telling their stories to viewers on a one-to-one basis."

Filmmaker Brian Buss, whose film *Robert's Village* took him 3 years and 22 days to make, comments, "Winning this award tells me the heart is the best place to tell a story from."

Cinzia Angelini, who wrote and directed *Mila*, says that winning Best Short I "represents an important milestone for the film, and we all feel that this win will thrust the Mila anti-war message further out there. There has never been a more relevant time for this message."

Amy Persons, the Sr. Manager of Earned Media at Aflac, shared, "Aflac is proud to have been a part of the 2022 Julien Dubuque International Film Festival and to receive the award for **Best Animation for our animated short, The Park Bench**. Special thanks to the creative minds who helped tell the story of family, hope and care — Rob Edwards and Carl Reed with musical direction by Nas."

The next JDIFF will take place on April 26th-30th, 2023. Submissions for the 2023 JDIFF will open in August 2022. Check the [website](#) for more information.

More about JDIFF

Since 2012, The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival has been dedicated to enriching the community and bridging cultures through the education and promotion of

arts through independent film. JDIFF acknowledges emerging filmmakers from around the world and supports diverse and cause-related films.

The 2022 JDIFF took place from April 20th - 24th at the historic Hotel Julien Dubuque and other locations in downtown Dubuque. JDIFF presented 120 features, documentaries, animated films and shorts, plus 25 student films. The Festival was presented by Renovo Media Group, Runde Auto Group and TH Media (formerly the Telegraph Herald).

For more information:

www.julienfilmfest.com

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