

June 15, 2005

Murray's "Mouth to Mouth" Wins Top Awards at Brooklyn Fest

by Ellen Keohane

The 8th annual **Brooklyn International Film Festival (BiFF)** announced this year's winners at an awards ceremony on June 12 at The Brooklyn Museum. Writer/director **Alison Murray's "Mouth to Mouth"** took home the "Best of Fest" Grand Chameleon Award as well as the award for best feature. The film follows a rebellious girl on a road trip across Europe with a cult-like collective named "Spark." One hundred forty-three films were screened at this year's festival, which took place from June 3-12 in Brooklyn, NY.



A scene from Alison Murray's "Mouth to Mouth," winner of two awards at the Brooklyn International Film Festival. Image provided by the festival.

The best documentary award went to **Ugyen Wangdi** for "**Price of Letter**." The film is about a 49-year-old postal runner from a mountain village in the Greater Himalayas of Bhutan. **Matan Guggenheim** won best short for "**Cricket**," while the best experimental film award went to **Gabriel Judet-Weinshel's "Facechasers."** **Philippe Grammaticopoulos** received the award for best animation for his film "**Le Regulateur**," and the award for best new director went to **Arin Crumley** and **Susan Buice** for their film "**Four Eyed Monsters**."

Audience Awards went to **Ron Brown's "A Perfect Fit"** for best feature, **Kenny Hotz's "The Papal Chase"** for best documentary, **Tony Mosher's "Frijolito, Go!"** for best short, **Edouard Salier's "Empire"** for best experimental film and **Christopher Conforti's "Frog"** for best animation.

In addition, Spirit Awards were given to **Melissa Painter's "Steal Me"** for best feature, **Jim Butterworth, Aaron Lubarsky** and **Lisa Sleeth's "Seoul Train"** for best documentary, **Ali Benkirane's "Amal"** for best short, **Eliane Koller's "Element - Playing Planet"** for best experimental film and **Antanas Janauskas' "Short Circuit" (Trumpas Sujungimas)** for best animation.

Certificates for outstanding achievement in acting were awarded to **Jessica Bohl** for her performance in "**You Are Alone**" and **Robert Margolis** in "**The Definition of Insanity**." Other certificates were awarded to **Andrea Costantini** for production on "**City Limits**" (*dentro la citta'*), **Petra Korner** for cinematography on the short "**Shards**," **Hurt McDermott** for the screenplay for "**Nightingale in a Music Box**," **Suki Hawley** for editing on the documentary "**Code 33**," and **Brendan Kersey** and **Kenneth Cosimo** for their work on the score for the feature "**Flip a Coin**."

Actor/writer/director **John Turturro** also received a special award in honor of his commitment to independent filmmaking, as well as his longstanding history with Brooklyn.

[For more information, please visit: <http://www.brooklynfilmfestival.org>]