

Swinging for Bklyn

By **Lisa J. Curtis**

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On Sunday night, the Brooklyn International Film Festival wrapped with an award ceremony that skimmed the cream from the crop of this year's line-up. At the closing night ceremony held at the Brooklyn Museum, writer-director **Alison Murray** garnered awards for best feature as well as the Chameleon Award for best film of the festival for her road trip flick, "Mouth to Mouth."

The fest also paid tribute to indie film heavyweight, Park Slope actor-director **John Turturro**, who's played opposite **Johnny Depp** in 2004's "Secret Window," and been a staple in films by respected filmmakers, the **Coen Brothers** and **Spike Lee**. Turturro received the Brooklyn Excellence Award from Brooklyn International Film Festival (BIFF) Director **Marco Ursino**.

Ursino told GO Brooklyn, "The Brooklyn Excellence Award was created as part of the eighth annual BIFF as a way to honor established filmmakers whose work embodies the

mission of the festival to discover, expose, and promote independent filmmakers while drawing worldwide attention to Brooklyn as a center for cinema and culture.

"John [Turturro] is not just from Brooklyn, he is Brooklyn at its best," said Ursino.

While trophies are nice, it's money that gets a film off the ground. In addition to her statuettes, BIFF awarded Murray \$32,000 worth of goods and services for her next flick.

For more information about the festival and its ongoing series at the Brooklyn Museum, visit the Web site

www.brooklynfilmfestival.org.

