

INSIDE OUT WRAPS UP ITS 22ND EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL AND ANNOUNCES AWARDS

TORONTO, May 28, 2012 – The Inside Out LGBT Film Festival wrapped up another hugely successful event and announced this year's award recipients at the Closing Night party last night. Award highlights include **MARGARITA** (Canada), voted by Festival audiences as the winner of the **RBC Royal Bank Award for Best Feature Film or Video**, **VITO** (USA), winner of the **Elle Flanders Award for Best Documentary Film or Video**, and **SHE MONKEYS** (Sweden), selected by the international jury as the winner of the **Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature**.

Inside Out offers three categories of awards: Canadian juried awards, several audience awards and a juried international award. For more information on the Festival, visit insideout.ca.

Canadian Juried Awards: These awards include Canadian works made in the last three years which are screening at this year's festival. Sharlene Bamboat (mixed media artist), Maripierre D'Amour (Director of Communications for Piknic Electronik), and Jason Ryle (Executive Director of the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival) were on this year's Canadian awards jury.

HARDtv Hot Shorts Award: **NARCISSUS** directed by Coral Short

The winning film offers a cheeky, playful and fun look at self-love.

Sponsored by HARDtv, this award is given to a Canadian film or video that addresses, in a unique fashion, LGBT sexuality and/or erotica.

Charles Street Video Award for Best Up-and-Coming Toronto Film or Videomaker:

TRANSITIONS, directed by Genady Gavleshov

The winning film features an interesting approach to documentary filmmaking to tell a moving story.

This award is presented to a local first-time filmmaker or video artist and is worth \$500 in editing time at Charles Street Video.

EP Canada/Canada Film Capital Award for Emerging Canadian Artist:

AKIN, directed by Chase Joynt

The winning film demonstrates a strong artistic vision in crafting a personal story of intertwining transitions and the interconnections of child and parent.

This \$750 cash award sponsored by EP Canada and Canada Film Capital is presented to an emerging Canadian filmmaker or video artist at the early stage of their career.

EP Canada/Canada Film Capitol Award for Best Canadian Film or Video:

SHE SAID BOOM!: THE STORY OF FIFTH COLUMN, directed by Kevin Hegge.

Well-crafted with strong direction and excellent use of archival footage, this film is an enjoyable and informative illumination of Toronto's Queer Punk history and its impact internationally.

A special mention to **WHERE WE WERE NOT PART 1: Feeling Reserved, Alexis' Story**, directed by Jessica MacCormack and Alexis Young, for its artistic and stylistically interesting way of highlighting an important political issue. This film offers an original and personal look at a part of Canadian history that is all too often overlooked.

Since 1995, EP Canada has shown its commitment to Inside Out and Canadian filmmakers and video artists. This \$1,250 cash award is presented to a Canadian artist for their short or feature-length narrative or documentary film.

International Awards:

Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature: **SHE MONKEYS** (Sweden), directed by Lisa Aschan

With strict visual form that reflects the film's characters, story and the nature of competition, and featuring honest and subtle performances from its youthful cast, this film offers an original view on coming of age and pre-adult sexuality at different stages of childhood and adolescence.

A special mention to **FACING MIRRORS** (Iran) directed by Negar Azarbayjani, for its complex perspectives on gender roles and the potential shifts and changes in the notions of femininity and masculinity in Iranian society.

Named in honour of the gay American film director, who stepped boldly onto the international film stage in 1986 with his first feature, *Parting Glances*, the Bill Sherwood Award is an international prize presented to a director making a debut at Inside Out. Patricia Rozema (filmmaker), Katharine Setzer (Director of Programming at image+nation) and Michael Stütz (Berlin International Festival Panorama's head of office and program coordinator) were on the jury.

Audience Awards:

RBC Royal Bank Award for Best Feature Film or Video:

MARGARITA (Canada), directed by Dominique Cardona and Laurie Colbert

RBC Royal Bank presents this \$1,000 award to the audience's favourite feature-length film or video.

Elle Flanders Award for Best Documentary Film or Video: **VITO** (USA), directed by Jeffrey Schwartz

This \$500 prize is named in recognition of the contribution of Elle Flanders, Inside Out's Executive Director from 1996 to 1999

Mikey/Schmikey Award for Best Short Film or Video: **BALDGUY** (Norway), directed by Maria Bock

This \$1,000 award is provided by Inside Out supporters Michael Leshner and Michael Stark

About Inside Out

Inside Out presents the annual Toronto LGBT Film and Video Festival, with financial support from Presenting Sponsor, RBC. It is the largest event of its kind in Canada and entertains cinema buffs of all stripes, showcasing the best and most diverse films by, for and of interest to LGBT communities. For 11 days, the Festival draws crowds of more than 32,500 to screenings, artist talks, panel discussions, installations and parties that showcase more than 175 films and videos from Canada and around the world. In addition, Inside Out is committed to challenging attitudes and changing lives year-round through the exhibition, production and promotion of LGBT film with initiatives including annual festivals in Toronto and Ottawa, educational programs including the Queer Video Mentorship Project and the Mark S. Bonham Scholarship, and fall/winter screening series.

About RBC and the Arts

RBC sponsors a wide-range of grassroots and local initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our communities. Proud to support events and passions that resonate with our clients and all Canadians, RBC provides opportunities for up-and-coming artists through programs such as the RBC Canadian Painting Competition, one of the largest competitions of its kind in the world; and the RBC Emerging Filmmakers Competition, part of our commitment as the Official Bank and major sponsor of the world's top public film festival – the Toronto International Film Festival®.

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