

Big Night for Emerging Cinematographers

September 27, 2011

Los Angeles, CA - The Guild's 15th annual Emerging Cinematographer Awards, held at the DGA theatre in Los Angeles on September 25, was the most successful yet. With an almost full house, attendance was up more than 50 percent from previous years. The standard of work shown was high and enthusiastically received.

President Steven Poster and Jim Matlosz, chairman of the ECA committee, presided over the evening. Surprise guest, recently retired Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Executive Director Bruce Davis, made some tongue-in-cheek opening remarks, advising honorees on their acceptance speeches. "I have a lot of experience in that area," he said.

He warned that these should be "acceptance" speeches, not "thank you" speeches. Keep it short and don't thank more than three people, he advised. "If you want to thank God you might have to drop your mom from the thank-you list."

All the honorees were there to accept their Awards. They were Steve Romano, *String Theory*; David Mahlman, SOC. *Numb*; Yueni Zander, *Dead Grass*, *Dry Roots*; Alison Kelly, *Spring of Sorrow*; Joseph Arena, *Applebox*; Gregory Wilson, *Somewhere Else*; Stefan Tarzan, *Absaroka* and Michael Nie, *Not Your Time*. Trailers of the two honorable mentions were also screened. They were *8 For Infinity*, Brian O'Carroll and Abe Martinez, *Little Candy Hearts*. Seaton Lin, Director of *Applebox* accepted on behalf of Abe who was unable to make it to the event.

Two of the honorees were chosen by a panel of seasoned Cinematographers to receive special prizes as "best of the evening." To Stefan Tarzan went an Arri Alexa rental package and Steve Romano received a Panavision camera package.

Raffle prizes, offered by sponsors, were also handed out. Gregory Wilson won a Deluxe post lab work package. Joseph Arena received a Rosco \$1,000 certificate for a Gels & Gel book. Alison Kelly got a Rosco Lite Pad Kit, Abe Martinez an Assimilate Scratch Lab package, while Brian O'Carroll won a day's rental of an AbleCine Phantom Flex camera.

Three winners at ASC luncheon

Two days earlier the nominees attended a packed lunch at ASC headquarters in Hollywood. They were there for a presentation of three special awards.

The Kodak Award for Mentorship went to cinematographer John Bailey, who has worked as director of photography on more than 70 motion pictures, television shows and series in the last 40 years. In 2001 he received the Society of Camera Operators' Presidents Award and shared the award for Best Artistic Contribution at the 1985 Cannes Film Festival for his work on *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*. Among the films he has shot are *Groundhog Day*, *As Good As It Gets*, *He's Just Not Into You* and *In the Line of Fire*. His latest film, set for release in 2012, is *Everybody Loves Whales*.

Robert Primes, who teaches at AFI, received the Deluxe Bud Stone Award for Cinematography Educator. Primes has received two Primetime Emmys (for *Felicity* and *My Carolina*) and was nominated twice, for *Sleeper Cell* and *Harrison: Cry of the City*. The American Society of Cinematographers recognized him with an award for MDs and nomination for *Felicity*. He received the Society of Camera Operators President's Award in 2008. Robert has been director of photography on nearly 50 titles.

Carolyn Giardina, contributing editor, tech for The Hollywood Reporter, was recognized with the Technicolor Bill Fraker Award for Cinematography Journalism. She has been covering entertainment production and technology for more than 15 years as an editor, writer or columnist for publications such as Film & Video and Shoot as well as the Reporter.

Sponsors

ECA sponsors this year are Kodak, Tiffen, Arri, Panavision, Sony, Deluxe, LaserPacific, Continental Color Craft, Assimilate, Rosco, Technicolor, 3Ality Digital, Canon, Carl Zeiss, K5600, AbelCine, Band Bro, The Camera House, Clairmont Camera, JL Fisher, KinoFlo, O'Connor (A Vitec Group), Birns & Sawyer, Chimera, Cinematography Electronics, Illumination Dynamics, Preston Cinema Systems, The Rag Place, Sekonic, Matthews Studio Equipment, Creative Handbook, American Society of Cinematographers, Creatasphere, NAB Expo, Plus Cameraimage, Production Hub, Cinegear, Animation World Network, Shoot Magazine, Mill Valley Film Festival, DV Magazine, The Wrap, Film Independent, LA Short Fest, Big Bear Lake Intl Film Festival, and Baseline.