



34th OULU INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

AWARD WINNERS 2015

Children's Film Competition

Starboy prize given by the Children's jury: *Little Gangster* directed by Arne Toonen

ECFA Award given by the International jury: *Operation Arctic* directed by Grethe Bøe-Waal

Youth Film Competition

For Tomorrow Award given by the Youth Film Competition jury: *Fair Play*, directed by Andrea Sedláčková

Finnish Competition

Church Media Foundation prize: *If I Ruled* directed by Jenni Kangasniemi and Aino Suni

STARBOY PRIZE: LITTLE GANGSTER

The Children's jury gave the Starboy prize sponsored by Oulun Energia Ltd to the director of the best film in the Children's Film Competition. The prize consists of 4000 euros and a Starboy statuette made by sculptor Sanna Koivisto.

Jury statement:

"The award-winning film is fun. Even though the theme is a very serious one, the film was realized in a funny way. All the actors were perfect for their roles, and the little boy who bullied others was great in his role. The happy ending suited the film.

The director of the winning film is Aarne Toonen, the name of the film is Little Gangster!

The film we selected as second, is The Island of Secrets.

The third film on our list is Oddball."

Photos of the film and the director:

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/fi/palkinnot-ja-juryt/tahtipoika-voittaja>

ECFA AWARD: OPERATION ARCTIC

The ECFA Award was founded by the European Children's Film Association in 2010. It is given to the best European film in the Children's Film Competition by an International Jury.

Jury statement:

"An exciting story full of surprises, with excellent children actors in the centre of the action. The film's characters go through constant development, both personally and as a group, and throughout the movie we see a wide range of emotions and reactions children go through in difficult situations. The movie is characterized by beautiful shots of nature, which serve as a good asset to the film's

dramaturgy. It is both educational and entertaining for children, and will create reactions in most audiences.

The winner is Operation Arctic directed by Grethe Bøe-Waal.”

Photos of the film and the director:

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/fi/palkinnot-ja-juryt/ecfa-palkinto>

FOR TOMORROW AWARD:

Awarded by the Friends of the Young Association, the For Tomorrow Award is given by a youth jury to the best youth film in the festival.

Jury statement:

“The film illustrates beautifully the epoch and the world that the events take place in. The story is constructed beautifully and believably in a world where political uncertainty and corruption are rampant. The struggle of the main characters against the system is described as hard and distressing, but the film never succumbs to being too repulsive. The whole film is technically excellent and every detail has been thought out. Everything has its place, which makes the film wonderful as a whole. The winner is *Fair Play*, directed by Andrea Sedláčková. “

Photos of the film and the director:

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/fi/palkinnot-ja-juryt/huomista-varten>

CHURCH MEDIA FOUNDATION AWARD:

The Media Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland grants a 1500 euro prize to a Finnish feature or short film at the festival. The prize is intended to support Finnish films for children and young people and encourage film makers to examine Christian responsibility and values. This year the recipient was chosen by accomplished film professional Kirsi Tykkyläinen.

Comments by Kirsi Tykkyläinen:

“It was rewarding to get the opportunity to see the films in the Finnish Competition at the 34th Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival. Fun, complex, exciting, sweet, important works! I have decided to give the Church Media Foundation Award to directors Jenni Kangasniemi and Aino Suni for their film *If I Ruled*. It is a beautiful and harmonious film that prompts: 'See me, hear me', and this way it expresses the theme of the award in a simple but impressive manner. If I Ruled is a touching, eloquent and strong appeal from the young to the adults.”

Photos of the film and the director:

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/fi/palkinnot-ja-juryt/katso-minuun>

You can find photos also on our homepage:

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/media>

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