

2018 Durban FilmMart Awards: Winners announced!

This year's Durban FilmMart (DFM) Awards, took place at the Southern Sun Maharani Hotel in Durban on Monday, 23 July.



Award winners at this year's Durban FilmMart.

Speaking at the DFM's awards ceremony, Toni Monty, head of the Durban Film Office and the Durban FilmMart, said,

"As one of the most important, film industry events and film finance platforms on the continent, we are really pleased that we have grown the DFM substantially this year with 877 delegates attending. We had over 40 countries participating this year, of which 19 were from Africa. A total number of 52 projects were pitched to potential partners, financiers, filmmakers, producers, distributors and agents during countless meetings."

Key to the value that the Durban FilmMart provides filmmakers are the many meetings and networking sessions that are held between delegates over the four days.

"The important work we do to enable the film-makers, would not be possible without our partners and sponsors," said Monty, "And we would like to thank our partner markets, development organisations and funding bodies with deep gratitude."

Dynamically grow the industry

"The work we do at this Mart supports the DIFF and DFO's vision to dynamically grow the industry and bring African cinema to its own people and to global platforms."

Eighteen official DFM film projects in development were presented at the Finance Forum through the sponsorship of the Industrial Development Corporation and the National Film and Video Foundation. Supported by Berlinale Talents, the Goethe-Institut and the German Embassy and in cooperation with Fipresci, Durban Talents was able to host 16 young filmmakers, and 3 Talents Press.

“We hosted a number of scriptwriters’ labs including Jumpstart which is supported by Produire au Sud, France and the Realness Script Writing Residency. Hot Docs Canada, mentored 11 documentary projects in development and six CineFam Africa television series projects were mentored by Caribbean Tales, Canada.”

“We recognise the important role that the eThekweni Municipality, the principal funder of the DFM plays in its success,” continued Monty. “The city’s involvement actively enables the economic growth of the industry, and we thank them for this.”

The DFM hosted a number of delegations this year including the inbound delegation through the Department of Trade and Industry, the Brics Film Festival delegation through the Department of Arts and Culture. Special thanks must go to the Canadian High Commission and US Embassy and the French Institute (IFAS), NFVF and KZN Film Commission for their support in bringing in delegates.

The Awards/Grants

- The International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA) awarded the most promising documentary project at the DFM, *Cheese Girl*, (South Africa) – producer: Batana Vundla, Marion Isaacs, director: Milisuthando Bongela – with an opportunity to attend the IDFA Forum, one of the top gatherings for documentary filmmakers, producers, commissioning editors, funds, private financiers and other documentary filmmakers in Europe, in November.
- The broadcast stream, Afridocs, that flights African and other international documentaries across 49 countries of sub-Saharan Africa on a weekly basis, gave a €2,500 award, funded by the Bertha Foundation, to *Zinder, The Seeds of Violence*, (Niger) – producer: Clara Vuillermoz, Ousmane Samassekou, director: Aicha Macky.
- The CineMart Award, sponsored by the co-production market of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, went to the fiction project, *Nyanga/The Horn*, (Zimbabwe) – producers: Sue-Ellen Chitunya, Brett Michael Innes, director: Brett Michael Innes. The project is given an opportunity to attend the Rotterdam Lab, is a five-day training and networking event for producers from all over the world.
- Produire au Sud of Festival des 3 Continents (Nantes), awarded the fiction film *Porta-Retrato*, (Mozambique) – producers: Aldino Languana, Osvaldo Lupini Bambamba, director: Orlando Mabasso Jr – an opportunity to attend its developmental workshop programme, PAS, where they will be given tools, expertise, and opportunities to develop European networks.
- Videovision Entertainment awarded the “Best South African Film Project” to *Snake*, (South Africa) – producers: Paul Egan, Stanford Gibson and Mustapha Hendricks, director: Meg Rickards. They received a prize valued at R75,000, which guarantees its release once it is completed. The prize also includes marketing and distribution support from Videovision Entertainment.
- Versfeld & Associates, publicity consultants awarded *Nyanga/The Horn*, (Zimbabwe) – producers: Sue-Ellen Chitunya, Brett Michael Innes, director: Brett Michael Innes – the development of a press kit.
- Sørfond awarded the project *How to Steal a Country* – producers: Rehad Desai and Zivia Desai, director: Mark Kaplan – with an opportunity to pitch at the Sørfond Pitching Forum in Oslo later this year.
- CineFAM-Africa Incubator Accelerator Programme award to pitch at the Caribbean Tales Film Festival in Toronto, went to *The Summit Club* by Layla Swart.

New awards

- Hot Docs Blue Ice Award, a cash prize of \$2,000 (Canadian currency) went to the documentary project *The Master's Plan* – producer: Hanne Phlypo and director Yuri Ceuninck.
- 11th Talents Durban “Talents Press” Recognition Award went to Cornelia Glele.
- Durban FilmMart Award for the Durban Talents Project Selected as a project for DFM 2019 went to *When Shadows Move* by Aliko Saragas.

The DFM ended but the Durban International Film Festival continues until 29 July. There is a free industry programme at the Isiphethu Hub opposite the Southern Sun Garden Court Marine Parade for seminars and workshops for the public and emerging filmmakers, as well as the free screenings at various venues, including the Wavescapes Surf Film festival at Ushaka until Friday, 27 July. Also, until Friday is the Brics Film Festival at the Playhouse. For more information about the DFM click [here](#).

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