

MEDIA RELEASE



22 October 2018

“Check Out” takes top honour at Sit Down Shutup and Watch

From a record-breaking 300 entries, American short drama *Check Out* by Bobby Marinelli, has taken out the Best of Festival award presented at the Red Carpet event held in Angaston Town Hall. The film is a collaboration between Bobby (Writer/Director) and his sister Elyse Marinelli (Cast), who stars in the film. It tells the story of a check out bagger (Kelly) who asks for a pay rise but instead solves a personal problem for her boss, leading to newfound respect. The film screened in the Our Story section of the Festival.

The biennial Sit Down Shutup and Watch Film & New Media Festival, showcases short films where a person with a learning disability is at the heart of the creative process.

Of the nine awards presented on Saturday night, local filmmakers were well represented with three categories won by South Australians. Amechai Bawden’s *Long Distance Runner* won Best Documentary, James Kurtze’s *EyeTV 2* won Best Animation, and Sam Bateman’s *Catsperger* won Best Comedy. In addition, local group the Barossa Film Club won the Against All Odds award for their comedy *Games & Dreams*.

Retiring Barossa Film Club Coordinator Mike Nicholls accepted the award on the group’s behalf. “We made the film on a shoestring and what you get is what you get! We are delighted to be the recipients of this new award because it demonstrates how our philosophy of ‘anyone can have a go’ can work,” he said.

The Red Carpet Awards Ceremony also produced a Festival first – dual winners in the new Music & Dance category. France’s Marie Lavis (*Mirrors and the Message*) and the Arty Party from the UK (*A Safe Place to Rest*) shared this award.

Festival Steering Committee Chair, Lee Witczak, who co-hosted the Red Carpet Awards on Saturday night with Matt Shilcock, said, “We have been delighted by the quality of the films this year and how the Festival continues to grow. It is so important to see ourselves both on the screen and behind the camera, showing our unique perspective on the world. And others can find out what they don’t know - which is a lot!”

The award-winning films were presented at the “Best of Fest” screening on Sunday 21 October as part of this year’s Adelaide Film Festival.

Voting remains open in the People’s Choice Award with members of the public encouraged to view the films on the Sit Down Shutup and Watch YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3PLBv5OrbloYG-IHz7mmMK06wgtQ77vz) and vote using the online poll (www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDSW2018). Voting closes on Monday 5

November and the winner of the People's Choice award will be announced on Wednesday 7 November, 2018.



Above: South Australian James Kurtze, winner of Best Animation, with his award (Photo by P Soteriou)

To arrange an interview or photo with one of the local award winners please contact:

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*Sit Down Shutup and Watch
is an initiative of Tutti Arts*

