

9. International  
Izmir Short Film  
Festival

9. International Izmir Short Film Festival Report **2008**



**İZMİR SİNEMA DERNEĞİ**  
İZMİR CİNEMA ASSOCIATION

One of the landmarks of Izmir city, **International Izmir Short Film Festival**, has met the cinema lovers of Izmir this year for the ninth time and, on November 9 ended its journey which started on November 3 to say hello again to its audience next year. The festival organized by the Izmir Cinema Association with the support of Ministry of Culture and welcoming of Izmir Hilton Hotel presented again the **best examples of short films from four corners of the world** on big screen. Almost **8000 people** attended the screenings held in Izmir French Culture Center. The festival who received **1119 films from 65 countries** provided the audience to meet short films for seven days as the sole film festival organized in Izmir.





In the official competition, 20 films competed in four categories both nationally and internationally. The festival jury included: Short film director Umut Aral, journalist Bahar Akıncı, journalist Tuğrul Eryılmaz, cinema academic Prof. Dr. Robert J. Cardullo, film critic Tuna Yılmaz, director of Israel Haifa Cinematheque Nesim Ben Noya and actor Halim Ercan. Finalist films were as follows:

#### **Uluslararası Kurmaca Finalistleri**

I Don't Dream in German / Ivana Lalovic / Switzerland  
Somewhere Near Here / Morteza Jazzab / Iran  
Next Folor / Dennis Villeneuve / Canada  
Love Apples / Ali Kasapoğlu / Australia  
Surprise! / Fabrice Maruca / France

#### **Uluslararası Animasyon Finalistleri**

Gemainschaft / Özlem Akın / Turkey  
Solitude / Mehrdad Sheikhan / Iran  
Refreny / Wiola Sowa / Poland  
Hum / Soran Benoit Pedersen / Danmark  
Poor Yorrick / Sergey Gordeev / Russia

#### **Ulusal Kurmaca Finalistleri**

Polis / Cemil Ağacıkoğlu  
Sapak / Fırat Mançuhan  
Şah Mat / Sila Ünlü  
Neden Ben? / Memet Arslan  
Evladiye / Eray Mert

#### **Ulusal Belgesel Finalistleri**

Son Balo Zeybek ve Vals / Biray Dalkıran  
Stüdyo Osep / Bilgen İnce  
İşkenceye Tolerans / Armağan Pekkaya & Umut Kol  
Bir Bölü Dört / Bahar Tugen  
Tarlabaşında Neler Oluyor? / Timurtaş Onan



At the opening ceremony of the festival which commenced on **November 3**, the festival staff said hello to its audience and the first screenings of the journey which will last one week was made. The ceremony started at 19:00 and the short film entitled “Be Happy! That is an Order” by **Sinan Çetin** was screened. Before the ceremony, a Q&A with Sevinç Paçacı who is the director of the film “Occidorient” was held at 17:00.

On the second day of the festival, **November 4** İlker Zaimoğlu, director of “Topless Bodies”, and Ece İçmez, director “HHRP” met the audience and answered their questions. The fact that two young directors are from Izmir made the Q&A more interesting

The conference entitled Short Film and Content held on **November 5** presented festival’s Programme director and film critic **Tuna Yılmaz**, Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Fine Arts Cinema/TV department academic **Ragıp Taranç** and awarded short film director **İnan Arslan**. Conference was moderated by festival president **Kayhan Kırmızıgül**. Common content issues and suggestions for the future regarding Turkish short films were discussed together with the audience.

Istanbul University Faculty of Communication lecturer **Dr. Cenk Demirkıran** met the audience on **November 6** after the screening of his film City Beyond the Light Tower. The film was presented with a special screening and the director himself answered the questions of the Izmir audience.





The day of **November 7** Friday was rich with Q&A's. **Muge Bayraktar**, the director of the film Sultans of the Bosphorus and her cinematographer **Sinan Muter** had the excitement of visiting Izmir for the first time while answering the questions. The directors of the film 3 in 35, **Tuna Yilmaz** and **Murat Eldem** were happy to see that the Izmir audience liked their film because the film was about the life in Izmir. The other names who met the audience during Q&A's were Butimar's director **Erol Mintaş** and his cinematographer **İnan Arslan**, Angel's director Ersin Gök and Barbarossa the Pirate's director **Loic Talhouet**. The Q&A with **Sinan Çetin** which was held the same day was probably the most crowded event of the festival. The last meeting of the day was with the directors of the documentary film Izmir Sea Children **Nihan Şengül** and **Raşel Meseri**.

On **November 8** Saturday, all finalist films of all categories were screened for the second time. All directors of the national finalists and the director of the film Somewhere Near Here which competes for Iran, **Morteza Jazzab** were present during the screenings. The audience had the chance to watch the finalist films and ask questions to their directors.





The closure films were screened at the the closure award ceremony held on Saturday, **November 8.** These films were selected on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the foundation of The Turkish Republic. The common thing about two films was that films were about the founder of the country Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The Last Ballot by Biray Dalkıran and Turkish Nation is Ready by Tahsin İşbilen were screened with the presence of their director and also actors Sümer Ezgü and Yavuz Hekim who played the roles of Atatürk. At the ceremony where we had the distinguished pleasure to welcome his Excellency ambassador of France Cumhuriyet Berbarud Emie, awards were presented to films on four categories. The awarded films of the night were as follows:

*Best International Fiction Film*

**Next Floor by Dennis Villeneuve/Canada**

*Best International Animated Film*

**Gemeinschaft by Ozlem Akin /Turkey**

*Best Turkish Fiction Film*

**Check/Mate by Sila Unlu**

*Best Turkish Documentary*

**Tolerance to Torture by Armagan Pekkaya & Umut Kol**

*Special Jury Award*

**Sapak by Firat Mancuhan.**

The night continued with the party thrown at Izmir Hilton Hotel where all guests of the festival were hosted.

The last day of the festival **November 9,** presented a panorama of Basque short films in collaboration with the Basque Film Archives. This screening was followed by the special Programme entitled Everybody is Free and Equal prepared in collaboration with Izmir Goethe Institut. Within this Programme, several short films with a theme of freedom and equality produced in different European countries with the support of Goethe Institut were screened. The final screening of the festival included the awarded short films of the year.



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