

## ***FINCA Festival announces winning films***

In the context of the closing ceremony, FINCA International Environmental Film Festival [organized by the DerHumALC Multimedia Institute (IMD)] announced on Wednesday July 30, the winning films of the Official Selection of Feature-Length Films and the Official Selection of Short- and Medium-Length Films of this second edition, as well as the Audience Award and the SIGNIS Award. The recipient of the 1st prize of the Selection of Feature-Length Films, after the jury's verdict composed of Roberto Pérez Rocha, Katja Alemann, Matías Arias, Ulises de la Orden and Sergio Federovisky was the French film *Tous Cobayes* by Jean-Paul Jaud. The prize consisted of 24,000 pesos, awarded by NGO Transparency International, FINCA's sponsor.

According to the verdict, the documentary accomplished a scientific and academic research-based approach, away from propagandistic discourse, of two of the biggest issues relating to pollution and human security: Genetically Modified Organisms and Nuclear Energy. With this choice in mind, the film manages to deliver its message in an emphatic, clear and powerful way, thus engaging a wide audience. Meanwhile, the Italian film *Buongiorno Taranto* directed by Paolo Pisanelli obtained the First Mention of the Official Selection of Feature-Length Films. The Second Mention was awarded to *Huicholes, los Últimos Guardianes del Peyote*, documentary shot in Mexico by Argentine director Hernán Vilchez.

The animated short-film *Vigia* by Marcel Barelli claimed the first prize in the Official Selection of Short- and Medium-Length Films, thus collecting the 12,000 set as monetary prize. The verdict of the jury composed by Mariela Silvestein, Pablo D'Alo Abba and Pablo De Vita observed that the film excels in its power to convey its message through simplicity and humor, presenting the problematic effects of pesticides in everyday life through a story told by a grandfather to his grandson. Thanks to a very elaborated animation work that also seeks a childish aesthetic, its seeming simplicity is moving and enables it to reach a wide audience. The film thus conveys a metaphor on the impossibility of escaping pollution.

The First Mention from the Official Competition of Short and Medium-Length Films went to the animated Mexican short *Fosca Liebre* by Victoria Karmín Zárate. The jury granted the Second Mention to *Megaminería: Mentiras a Cielo Abierto* (Argentina) by Matías Estévez.

Meanwhile, the Audience Award went to feature-length film *Huicholes, los Últimos Guardianes del Peyote* by Hernán Vilchez, while *Megaminería: Mentiras a Cielo Abierto* became the most voted short-film by the spectators of the FINCA Festival.



The jury of SIGNIS (World Catholic Association for Communication), composed by Rocco Oppedisano (president), Maria Laura Vella and Pablo Domínguez Zoth awarded a special mention to Italian film Buongiorno Taranto, directed by Paolo Pisanelli, for its commitment to environmental care and respect for indigenous peoples and its profound spirituality and cinematographic quality, which according to the verdict displayed a marked mastery of audiovisual language.

The jury of SIGNIS awarded the first place to Huicholes, los Últimos Guardianes del Peyote shot in Mexico by Argentine filmmaker Hernán Vilchez, for emphasizing the leading role of the youth in environmental care and for instilling in them a sense of belonging. The jury also highlighted its original use of a medium such as the radio in its effort to motivate and generate change, and its outstanding soundtrack.

Once again, the FINCA team thanks all those who participated, the directors and the vast crew of volunteers for taking up the challenge to become Art and Part of the Change.