



2009 AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

**ALSO: AFF ANNOUNCES DATES FOR NEXT YEAR'S FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE:
OCTOBER 21 – 28, 2010**

AUSTIN, Texas --- November 5, 2009 --- The Austin Film Festival (AFF) is very pleased to announce the 2009 Audience Award winners. Throughout the week of the Festival (Oct. 22-29) audience members were invited to numerically rate films by ballot following each film screening. The winners are as follows:

Out of Competition Audience Award Winner

Up in the Air

Writers: Jason Reitman, Sheldon Turner

Director: Jason Reitman

Comedy Vanguard Audience Award Winner

Herpes Boy

Writer: Byron Lane

Director: Nathaniel Atcheson

Narrative Feature Competition Audience Award Winner

Happy Ending

Writer/Director: Atsuhiro Yamada

Documentary Feature Competition Audience Award

Co-Winners:

My Run

Director: Tim VandeSteege

Torey's Distraction

Director: Tisha Blood

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Narrative Short Audience Award Winner

Love Bug

Writer/Director: Kat Candler

Narrative Student Short Audience Award Winner

Adelaide

Writer/Director: Liliana Greenfield-Sanders

Documentary Short Audience Award Winner

Mr. Okra

Director: T.G. Herrington

Animated Short Audience Award Winner

The Incident at Tower 37

Director: Chris Perry

Jason Reitman last attended the Austin Film Festival in 2007, when he presented the break-out film *Juno* with writer Diablo Cody. *Juno* won the 2007 AFF Audience Award, and went on to win the Academy Award® for Best Original Screenplay and garner nominations for Best Director and Best Picture. 2008 AFF Audience Award winner *Slumdog Millionaire*, presented by director Danny Boyle, went on to win 8 Oscars®, including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay.

"The mission of AFF is to seek out new and exciting filmmakers and screenwriters telling compelling stories, as well as to honor those who have made a significant impact on film," says Kelly Williams, Austin Film Festival Film Program Director. "We are very proud of these winners who have obviously made a deep and lasting impact on the audience."

The AFF has announced its dates for the 17th Annual Austin Film Festival and Conference, October 21-28, 2010. For information or to purchase a Badge, please call 1-800-310-FEST (3378) or visit the website at www.austinfilmfestival.com.

About Austin Film Festival

The Austin Film Festival (AFF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to furthering the art, craft and business of writers and filmmakers and recognizing their contributions to film, television and new media. The AFF champions the work of aspiring and established writers and filmmakers by providing unique cultural events and services, enhancing public awareness and participation and encouraging dynamic and long-lasting community partnerships. www.austinfilmfestival.com.

The Austin Film Festival is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Special support is provided to the Austin Film Festival by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences®, Continental Airlines, Clear Channel Radio, KVUE, and Target®.

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