



Press release

For immediate release

***THE LAST BOOK I READ* WINS OIFFA'S THIRD 72-HOUR SHORT FILM CHALLENGE**

Ottawa, June 17, 2023 — Back for its third edition in 2023, **OIFFA's** highly popular **72-HOUR SHORT FILM CHALLENGE** took place from June 1 to June 4, pitting several zealous filmmakers against each other in a race to complete their work in accordance with three predetermined parameters (for length, theme, and cultural reference). Given the popularity of this event, the Festival also hosted its first ever **YOUTH SHORT FILM CHALLENGE**, open to anyone under 17 years of age. The young participants had two weeks, from May 21 to June 4, to create a three-minute film respecting two predetermined parameters. Both Challenges were well attended and showcased some interesting new talents.

The unanimous winner of the **72-HOUR SHORT FILM CHALLENGE** and the Grand Prize is **Deep Bhakta and Ben Bergeron's** ***THE LAST BOOK I READ*** for its interesting take on the mandatory theme and compelling reflection on the place of books in our societies, as well as for the excellence of its camera work and its impressive overall storytelling. For its imaginative use of the imposed theme and for its well-written dialogue, the jury unanimously awarded the Challenge's Runner-up Prize to ***SATURDAY NIGHT*** by **Pritish Malhan**.

Winning the **YOUTH SHORT FILM CHALLENGE** Grand Prize is ***SUMMER VACATION*** by **Simon Neilz-Reid**, for its documentary reportage approach to exploring summer vacation memories, for the director's effort in reaching out to his neighbourhood, for its tight research and editing, and for its remarkable sound quality. Second place unanimously went to **Wanees Fatine's** ***UNTITLED***, for its hilarious interpretation of an Ottawa summer travelogue and for its impressive technical merits.

Judging the various entries in this year's two Challenges was a select panel of three professionals: Michael Hourli (author and writer), François Landry (film producer) and Claire Valade (President of the Quebec Film Critics Association). **OIFFA** warmly congratulates all winners and hopes to see their later work as part of its upcoming selections. We also salute all the participants and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

ABOUT OIFFA

OIFFA is the National Capital's and Eastern Canada's preeminent festival dedicated to Indian cinema. In its 6th year now, the Festival is pleased to continue cultivating an audience for Indian cinema and Indian culture. **OIFFA** looks forward to welcoming its guests and the public in the heart of Ottawa again in 2024, for its usual five-day competitive showcase of multi-genre Indian films.

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