



"Skillfully crafting the narrative for development..."

Websterbiz

Strategy | Communications | Project Management | CSI | Stakeholder Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SOUTH AFRICAN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS SCOOP 3 AWARDS AT 80TH VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

[September 2023] The Venice International Film Festival that took place from 3 to 5 September 2023, is an annual film festival held in Venice, Italy. It is the oldest film festival globally and one of the Big 5 International Film festivals worldwide.

Independent filmmakers were presented the opportunity to enter their 'work-in-progress' films into the 11th edition of the Final Cut in Venice (FCV), an industry programme within the festival that provides tangible support for the completion of films. Entries are welcomed from all African countries and five Middle-Eastern countries namely, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria. The program offers the opportunity to present films still in the production phase to international film professionals for the purpose of providing economic post-production support and film market access.

Local film producer, Deidre Jantjies from Cape Town along with her co-producer Annemarie Du Plessis and co-writers and co-directors Jason Jacobs and Devon Delmar entered their feature film - Carissa and were delighted to be selected and invited as the only South African film amongst 7 international films to the Final Cut in Venice at the festival.

Entrants included 72 projects directed by 77 filmmakers (26 by female directors and 51 by male directors), out of which 7 projects were selected (2 by female directors and 5 by male directors).

"Little did we know that the film would win 3 awards, way beyond our expectations," says Deidre Jantjies, owner of Na Aap Productions.

Hailing from Oudtshoorn, Dysselsdorp originally, Deidre, a cultural activist is passionate about the historical stories of women and through her Na Aap Productions, she screens untold stories of Southern Africa, focussing on stories closest to her heart.

Whilst she is no stranger to international awards having had success with an animation short film called *Love Thy Neighbour*, which she produced, she is excited to celebrate the success of her first feature film as producer and also the first feature film from her production company.

The process entailed presenting the working copy of the film to producers, buyers, distributors, post-production companies and film festival programmers.

DISCLAIMER:

This document is the Intellectual Property of WebsterBiz Consulting. Copyright belongs to WebsterBiz Consulting. No portions hereof may be used or shared with anyone except with the prior consent from WebsterBiz Consulting.



Carissa, filmed in Wupperthal a quiet South African village won a €5.000 (approximately R100 000.00) cash award to support the film in post-production.

Said the judges, "We were entranced by this journey from modernity back to traditions and the choices that we are led to make between the easier life with economic progress and the more harmonious life with nature".

The film was also awarded €2.500 (approximately R50 000) in post-production cost support and the acquisition of the non-commercial and non-exclusive broadcasting rights for 7 years with a value of €4.000 - 6.000 (approximately R82 000) both from the **Jury of Supporters** award category.

The film tells the story of young woman whose grandmother urges her to apply for a job opportunity on a new golf estate being developed in the mountains. However, when she learns that the estate will be built over her estranged grandfather's rooibos tea lands she is confronted with a difficult choice: take the job or take over the land. The film is set for release in 2024.

"The cast and crew are delighted to have represented South Africa on a historical international platform of this nature and hope this achievement will inspire other emerging filmmakers to step out and pitch their work on a global stage," concluded Deidre.

ENDS...

DISCLAIMER:

This document is the Intellectual Property of WebsterBiz Consulting. Copyright belongs to WebsterBiz Consulting. No portions hereof may be used or shared with anyone except with the prior consent from WebsterBiz Consulting.