

Follow-Up to the 2013 Imago Film Festival

Our 9th annual film festival kicked off on Tuesday, April 2, with a screening of *Father of Lights*, a documentary made by Darren Wilson, Judson University's filmmaker-in-residence. Matt Bilen, the cinematographer and composer, answered questions during a post-film discussion. While describing the content and technique of the documentary film, Bilen said his fantastic experiences of God's work had taught him to love at all times.



The Imago Film Festival is designed to showcase innovative faith-based indie film from around the world and we feel we had the opportunity to do that very well this year. Thanks to great submissions, we screened a mix of narrative, documentary, and experimental short films that consistently tackled tough social issues.

On April 3-5, this year's films (in competition for the \$1000 grand prize) were shown to appreciative audiences. The films ranged from *Luminaris*, an animated fantasy from Argentina about the light of one's imagination to *Growing Up Normal*, a documentary from the United States about a former gang member who becomes an outspoken Christian. Each night began with live music from local bands.

Also on April 5, Ralph Winter, producer of *Star Trek* and *X-Men* films, spoke to festivalgoers about the power of story in film and its ability to initiate transformation in the lives of individuals.





On April 6, the festival came to a close with its elegant red carpet celebration, complete with paparazzi, a best-dressed contest, and live music by Tecumseh. Dean Batali, writer for *That 70s Show* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, spoke to festivalgoers about his motivation to create great characters based on his experiences as a Christian.

The evening ended with the awards ceremony and the screening of the festival winners. There was a tie for audience choice between *The Apple of My Eye* (from Spain) and *Smile* (from Italy). The judges' choice for runner-up in the 1-15 min category was *The Discarded* (from Spain) and runner-up in

the 16-30 min category was *Stalled* (from Canada).

The grand prize winner was *Wednesday's Child* (from the United States), a funny and haunting story of a girl who discovers her parents have an extreme interest in their child's psychology. Mary Kay Cook, the film's producer, accepted the award and commended the audience for their support of independent film.

Thanks to our staff, judges, and speakers; thanks to those who submitted films; thanks to our financial supporters; thanks to those who attended the festival; thanks especially to those who helped with the simple belief that they were contributing to something special; and of course, thanks to God, the creator of all good things without whom none of this would be possible. We look forward to seeing you next year.



imagofilmfestival.com