

# Follow-Up to the 2014 Imago Film Festival

The Imago Film Festival showcases innovative film from around the world that deals with faith issues 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 films that consistently tackled tough social issues.



Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual film festival kicked off on Tuesday, April 1, with a conversation with Ron Dean (*The Dark Knight*, *The Fugitive*); the actor discussed his 35-year history in film as well as his role in the recent film “Recalculating” made in Elgin, IL. The evening continued with a screening of the first block of films in competition for the \$1000 grand prize.

On April 2, the festival continued with a retrospective program featuring some of the best of the past Imago award winners. These included Dustin Grella’s experimental film “Prayers for Peace” about his brother’s death and Pardis Parker’s satirical and touching film “Afghan” on racism in a post-9/11 world. The evening continued with a screening of the second block of films in competition.

On April 3, director Hugh Schulze joined festival-goers for a screening of his film *Cass* about a family whose lives are changed by an artist in the abandoned house next door (starring David Dastmalchian and James McDaniel). A former award winner at the Imago Film Festival, Schulze talked about the journey from the short film “Arc of a Bird” to the production of the major film *Cass*.



On April 4, actor Marshall Allman (*True Blood*, *Blue Like Jazz*) led an intensive actors workshop; later that night, he shared with the festival crowd hilarious stories about his work with Bruce Willis and thoughtful commentaries on

how he made ethical choices as an actor. The evening continued with a screening of the third and final block of films in competition.



On April 5, filmmaker Braden Heckman (Wanderlust Productions) led an in-depth workshop on crowd-funding; later that night, the festival came to a close with its elegant red carpet celebration, complete with paparazzi, a best-dressed contest, and live music by Ben Calhoun of Citizen Way.

The evening continued with a 10-year anniversary documentary about the festival and a presentation of the festival's lifetime achievement award to Martin Sheen; a recorded speech from Sheen was played in which he encouraged the festival crowd to find a cause worth fighting for.

The evening ended with the awards ceremony and the screening of the festival winners. The winner of the audience choice award was "The Advocate" (from the United States). The judges' choice for first place in the shorter time category was "Ngutu" (from Spain) and first place in the longer time category was "The Uneducated" (from Australia).



The grand prize winner was "Not Anymore: A Story of Revolution" (from Syria), a riveting and haunting documentary about the Syrian revolution told through the experiences of two young Syrians: a female journalist and a male rebel fighter.

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](http://imagofilmfestival.com)**