

Three Cuban directors presented with Special Jury Coral Awards at Havana Film Festival



Havana, December 15 (RHC)— Three Cuban directors received special jury awards at the New Latin American Film Festival, which wound up Friday evening at Havana's Mella Theater.

The Coral awardees are Alejandro Gil for *Inocencia* (Innocence), Arturo Soto for *Nido de Mantis* (Mantis Nestle) and Fernández Pérez and Laura Cazador (from Mexico) for *Insumisas* (Unsubmissive), who won the prize in the category of direction of full-length fiction movies.

In the movie *Inocencia* (Innocence), Cuban director Alejandro Gil shows the human faces of victims, killers, relatives and friends related to the crime of innocent medical students murdered by Spanish authorities in 1871 —the most infamous crime of Spanish colonial rulers at the time. The movie focuses on the trial and sentence to death, plus the parallel story of one of the murdered students' friends, Fermín Valdés Domínguez, who pledges to find the dead bodies of his slain classmates and denounce the murder perpetrated by the authorities.

In the thriller *Nido de Mantis* or *Mantis Nestle*, Arturo Soto deals with a love triangle between two men and a woman throughout 30 or 40 years. In August, 1994, the three appear dead and the presumed

criminal is the woman's daughter, a girl who was in the house when the events took place and evidently knows the depths of the crime of passion.

In *Unsubmissive*, Cuban director Fernando Pérez and Mexico's Laura Cazador take the audience on a tour of the eastern Cuban city of Baracoa in 1819 to tell the story of Enrique Faber, a Swiss doctor who marries a simple girl whom he has cured. After many years the true identity of Faber is revealed, he is not a he, he is a she, shaking the world of the city's conservative dwellers.

Other awards include the Coral Prize in the category of full-length fiction film given to *Pájaros de Verano* (Summer Birds) by Ciro Guerra and Cristina Gallego; on the other hand, the short-length fiction film award was presented to *Arcángel* (Archangel) by Ángeles Cruz from México, while Carlos Reygadas, director of *Nuestro tiempo* (Our Times) a movie from 2018, received the coral for the film *Archangel*, termed by specialized critics as 'visionary and problematic.'

In best script the prize went to Carlos Sorín for *Joel*, the best female performance in the fiction category went to Ilse Salas for the Mexican movie *Las niñas bien*, while the best male actor was Lorenzo Ferro for the Argentinian production *El Ángel* (The Angel).

The New Latin American Film Festival ran in Havana from December 6th through 16th.

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