

Grand LIA for Ogilvy Johannesburg's Selinah

LONDON: Ogilvy Johannesburg walked off with one of only two Grand LIAs for its Television/Cinema/Online Film spot "Selinah" for the Topsy Foundation, an HIV/Aids relief organisation, at the 2010 London International Awards last night, Monday, 8 November 2010. This is the first time in the history of the awards that a South African agency has won this equivalent of a grand prix for TV. [video]



The winning ad, produced by Egg Films and directed by Kim Geldenhuys, features the true story of Selinah, an Aids sufferer who experiences the ravaging effects of her disease being reversed over a period of 90 days through the administration of anti-retrovirals (ARVs). The ad also won two Gold Statues in TV/Cinema/Online Film, one for Public Service/Social Welfare and the second in the Music Original category.

"Labour of love"

Said Ogilvy Joburg ECD Fran Luckin after the awards: "The fact that a campaign that is so close to all our hearts has had such a fantastic year is incredibly rewarding. This was a labour of love for all of us, and it wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of the production crew, who filmed Selinah every day for three months, and the commitment of the creative team who saw their vision literally come alive before their eyes."

"This award is another testament to the fact that South African creativity can compete with the best in the world," continued Luckin. "But most importantly, it demonstrates yet again that creativity and effectiveness can go hand in hand."

"Winning a Grand LIA in this year's Show is huge," remarked LIA president Barbara Levy. "Especially when you consider that only two were awarded out of a potential 13. Congratulations to Ogilvy Johannesburg."

This year, [Selinah](#) also won a [Gold Film Lion](#) at Cannes (the first Gold Film Lion for a South African agency in over a decade), a [Gold Loerie](#), a [Gold Pendorong](#) and South Africa's Creative Circle [TV Ad of the Month](#) December 2009/January 2010, as well as being a [Clio finalist](#).

The ad is one of many developed by Ogilvy Johannesburg over its decade-long partnership with the Topsy Foundation, and serves as an illustration of the power of advertising to do good.

"Since the launch of the campaign earlier this year, we have seen an unprecedented influx of support from donors, and the number of patients requesting ARV treatment has also risen sharply," said Sylvia de Jager, executive director at the Topsy Foundation. "We are humbled that Selinah's story of hope and recovery has also captured the hearts of an international audience."

All the South African winners

Award	Medium	Category	Company	Brand Name of Product or Service	Title(s)
Grand LIA	Television/Cinema/Online Film		Ogilvy Johannesburg	Topsy Foundation	["Selinah"]
Gold Winner	Television/Cinema/Online Film / Music-Technique	Music Original	Ogilvy Johannesburg	Topsy Foundation	"Selinah"
Gold Winner	Television/Cinema/Online Film / Product/Service	Public Service/Social Welfare	Ogilvy Johannesburg	Topsy Foundation	"Selinah"
Bronze Winner	Television/Cinema/Online Film / Music-Technique	Music Adaptation	Velocity Films	Wimpy	"Family"
Bronze Winner	Print / Product/Service	Automotive	Y&R South Africa	Land Rover	"Everywhere URL"
Finalist	Television/Cinema/Online Film / Product/Service	Insurance	Bouffant	First For Women	"So Backwards"
Finalist	Print / Campaign	Consumer Campaign	Ogilvy Cape Town	VW Crafter	"Wedding", "Suburb", "Forest"

This year, for the first time, LIA honoured the Network of the Year - Y&R, Agency of the Year - RCKR/Y&R, London, and Production Company of the Year - MJZ. These winners were decided based on the outstanding work chosen by the juries across all media, with the following point system used to determine each honour: Grand LIA = 5 points, Gold LIA = 4 points, Silver LIA = 3 points, Bronze LIA = 2 points, and Finalist = 1 point.

Of the 13 562 submissions, from 79 countries, only 4% attained Shortlist status. Of those, only 0.6% won Gold Statues; 0.87% Silver; 1.12% Bronze and 1.33% Finalist. Compare this to the inception of the London International Awards in 1986,

when 2600 submissions were considered.

The London International Awards honour new ideas in advertising, design and digital media. The 25th LIA judging was held at the Wynn/Encore Hotel in Las Vegas, convening over a 10-day period. The juries, led by their respective jury presidents, viewed and scored every entry within their medium, ensuring that all the work was judged equally. They concluded with final discussions to determine Grand LIAs, Statue winners and Finalists.

For all the winners, winning work and creative credits, go to www.liaentries.com/winners.

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