

All the MultiChoice Vuka! Awards 2006 winners

At this year's MultiChoice Vuka! Awards held earlier this week, the two winning commercials both took a hard-hitting look at child abuse, while anti-drug and anti-smoking ads were a popular choice. The environment also came under the spotlight, with newcomer electronic engineer Allan Liddle using open source software downloaded for free from the Internet for his public service announcement, Save Water.



Love Me Love Me Not

The Awards were announced at a gala awards evening held at The Bassline in Newtown on Wednesday, 22 November 2006. Representing MultiChoice's flagship corporate social investment programme, the Vuka! Awards encourage established and aspirant creatives to produce a TV commercial for a charity or cause that is close to their hearts in the form of public service announcements (PSAs). The top 20 commercials - 10 made by professionals and 10 by industry newcomers - will be screened on DStv channels from January next year.

Overall professional winner

The overall winner in the professional category was the PSA Tokoloshe, which raised awareness for the South African Abused Children's Fund. It was produced by Adam Thal of Star Productions and directed by Verushka Vogt.

The commercial is a heart-wrenching look at a child who puts his bed on bricks to escape the tokoloshe but cannot escape the evil monsters in his own family. Says Thal, whose short film Under The Rainbow was showcased at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival: "All credit must go to Verushka who came up with the concept. She's a researcher who is trying to branch out into directing and we decided to give her a chance. She told us her idea and we thought it was brilliant and made the decision to back her."

A big winner this year is the DEA Tik commercial for Heart of Healing and the Drug Education Agency. Produced by Jeanne Watson for Big Bang Stunts, it took honours in three categories - for best direction (Gabriel Williams), best cinematography (Arthur West) and best sound design and original music (Digital Forest). It is a bold and ambitious look at the scourge of the drug Tik (crystal meth) amongst schoolchildren.

Best Professional concept and script went to Tar (Graydon Pieterse and Marcelle du Plessis for Net#Work BBDO); editing There's No Going Back (Josh Galvin for Y&R CT) and best animation The Rubbish Monster (Braam Jordaan for Condor Cape Town). There was no award made this year in the best humour category.

Best newcomer

In the best newcomer category, the overall winner went to We Are Sure, which was produced and directed by Leon von Solms for Rape Crisis Cape Town. It is a poignant look at a young woman exploring whether she was abused as a young child by a relative.

A special mention went to the heart-warming Cotlands' PSA I've got Life, created by Lisa Walters and Siven Maslamoney. This commercial was shot as a series of stills and each frame was graded to create mood. The little girl featured in the commercial is a Cotlands' child.

The anti-smoking animated ad Smoked Beef walked away with three awards - best direction (Mathew Bilton); best humour (Bilton) and best animation (Bilton, Niki Cilliers and Tom Kleinenberg). The Champion for People Against Women Abuse took best editing (Steven Mabunda) and best sound design/original music (Mabunda). There were no awards made in the concept and script category this year and the judges recommended that agencies need to become involved and mentor young scriptwriters.

Judges

All entries are judged on merit and judges do not know who the entrants are. Judges this year for the professional category were Peter Carr (Velocity); Tracey Williams (Videolab); Alan Ralston (Choas); Pendra Dissel (Surburban); Barry Dean; Roger Tavares (JWT) and Teboho Mahlatsi (Bomb).

The judges in the newcomer category were Cindy Lee (Blender); Brian Cawood (Fusion Films); Thabo Marera (Velocity); Rob Wilson (cinematographer); Lesley Wyldbore (House Post Production); Andrew Trail (House Post Production) and Aurelia Driver (Monkey Films).

Final round judges were Peter Carr (Velocity), Rob Wilson (cinematographer), Paul Hanrahan (Guillotine Post Production), Leseedi Maja (marketing manager, MultiChoice), Judith Mofutsanyana (McCann Ericksson), Matthew Brink (Lowe Bull), Teboho Mahlatsi (director).

The MultiChoice Vuka! 2006 Top 20 entries which will be screened together with the semifinalists on DStv from January next year are:

Top 10 professional entries:

Life Manual

Charity Organisation: Girls and Boys Town
Advertising Agency: The Jupiter Drawing Room
Concept/Script: Nicola Wilson, Liam Wielopolski & David Kreuger
Production House: The Picture Tree
Producer: Jackie Nel
Director: Oscar Strauss
Cinematographer: Tom Van Schaik
Original Sound: Rob Schroeder & Andrew Stansfield
Editor: Tessa Ford

Powa

Charity Organisation: Powa
Advertising Agency: The Jupiter Drawing Room CT
Concept & Script: The Jupiter Drawing Room
Production House: Suburban Films
Producer: Liels Lategan
Director: Sheila Kubheka
Cinematographer: Anton de Bruyn
Original Sound: NA
Editor: Isa Lee Jacobson

There's No Going Back

(Winner in the best editing category and finalist in the best direction and best cinematography categories)

Charity Organisation: Drug Education Agency - Drugline
Advertising Agency: Y & R CT
Concept & Script: Tyler Botha, Deane Longmore and Emily Veitch
Production House: Collective Energy
Producer: Ian Nivison
Director: Grant de Sousa
Cinematographer: Dean Slotar
Original Sound: Simon Malherbe
Editor: Josh Galvin

Tar

(Winner in the best concept and script category and finalist in the best overall, best direction and best sound design and original music categories. It also received a special mention in the best sound design and original music category)

Charity Organisation: National Council Against Smoking
Advertising Agency: Net#Work BBDO
Concept & Script: Graydon Pieterse and Marcelle du Plessis
Production House: Net#Work BBDO
Producer: Caroline Switala
Director: Harold Holscher
Cinematographer: Willie Nel
Original Sound: Paul Schaffer
Editor: Nic Goodwin

Tokoloshe

(Winner in the best overall category and finalist in the best direction, best concept and script and best cinematography categories)

Charity Organisation: South African Abused Children's Fund
Production House: Star Productions
Producer: Adam Thal
Director: Verushka Vogt
Cinematographer: Willie Nel
Concept/Script: Verushka Vogt
Original Sound: Mark Eckstein
Editor: Tyrone Rubin

DEA TIK

(Winner in the best direction, best cinematography and best sound design and original music categories and finalist in the best overall, best concept and script and best editing categories)

Charity Organisation: Heart of Healing/Drug Education Agency

Production House: Big Bang Stunts

Producer: Jeanne Watson

Director: Gabriel Williams

Cinematographer: Arthur West

Concept/Script: Gabriel Williams

Original Sound: Digital Forest

Editor: Eben Smal

Remember Them

(Finalist in the best editing and best sound design and original music categories)

Charity Organisation: Alzheimer's Association

Production House: DC Studios

Producer: Cat Lindsay

Director: Jahmil XT Qubeka

Cinematographer: George Loxton

Concept/Script: Tristan Holmes

Original Sound: Jahmil XT Qubeka

Editor: Warwick Allan

The Rubbish Monster

(Winner in the best animation category)

Charity Organisation: Endangered Wildlife Trust

Production House: Condor Cape Town

Producer: Braam Jordaan

Director: Braam Jordaan

Concept/Script: Braam Jordaan

Original Sound: Stephen Webster

Editor: Braam Jordaan

Animation: Braam Jordaan

Joke of the Bushveld

Charity Organisation: Endangered Wildlife Trust

Advertising Agency: Volcano Advertising

Concept & Script: François Boshoff, Greg Watt and Jade Manning

Production House: Volcano Advertising

Producer: Lara Bayley

Director: Marios Nicolettis

Cinematographer: Marius Potgieter

Original Sound: Mickey Perreira

Editor: Vivienne Stother

Love Me Love Me Not

(Finalist in the best animation category)

Charity Organisation: Child Line

Production House: Lovebomb Animation

Producer: Bernie Roux
Director: Bernie Roux
Concept/Script: Bernie Roux
Original Sound: Gary & Dean Levitt
Editor: Bernie Roux

Top 10 newcomers:

In a Heartbeat

(Finalist in the best overall and best editing categories)

Charity Organisation: Narconon New Life Centre

Production House: Puma Video

Producer: Marina Germishuysen

Director: Marina Germishuysen

Concept/Script: Marina Germishuysen

Original Sound: Marina Germishuysen

Editor: Louis Fawell

Stop It!

Charity Organisation: Child Line SA

Production House: Universal Computer Arts Academy

Producer: Sven Gruber

Director: Sven Gruber

Cinematographer: Adrian Van Zyl

Concept/Script: Kane Croudace

Original Sound: Roberto Pita

Editor: Roberta Pita

Animation: Sven Gruber, Kane Croudace, JC Malan, Roberto Pita, Adrian van Zyl

Be Wise, Rubberize

(Finalist in the best overall, best direction, best sound design/original music, best humour and best animation categories)

Charity Organisation: Planned Parenthood Association

Production House: Universal Computer Arts Academy

Producer: Simone Cole

Director: JC Visser

Concept/Script: JC Visser & Simone Cole

Original Sound: JC Visser & Simone Cole

Editor: JC Visser & Simone Cole

Animation: JC Visser & Simone Cole

We Are Sure

(Winner in the best overall category and finalist in the best direction and best cinematography categories)

Charity Organisation: Rape Crisis Cape Town

Production House: Independents

Producer: Leon von Solms

Director: Leon von Solms

Cinematographer: Leon Von Solms

Concept/Script: Phillipa Yaa

Original Sound: Pink House Music

Editor: Nicole van der Bijl

Smoked Beef

(Winner in the best direction, best humour and best animation categories)

Charity Organisation: National Council Against Smoking

Production House: Universal Computer Arts Academy

Producer: Mathew Bilton

Director: Mathew Bilton

Cinematographer: Mathew Bilton

Concept/Script: Matthew Bilton, Niki Cilliers, Tom Kleinenberg

Original Sound: Matthew Bilton, Niki Cilliers, Tom Kleinenberg and James Porte

Editor: Mathew Bilton

Humour: Mathew Bilton

Animation: Matthew Bilton, Niki Cilliers, Tom Kleinenberg

Aids Awareness

Charity Organisation: Aids Awareness

Production House: Chaos Films

Producer: Asanda Madikane

Director: Asanda Madikane

Cinematographer: Helen Parker

Concept/Script: Asanda Madikane

Original Sound: Rommany Allen

Editor: Rommany Allen

Think

(Finalist in the best editing and best design/original music categories)

Charity Organisation: Love Life

Production House: Independent

Producer: Craig Moore

Director: Craig Moore

Cinematographer: Tom Marais

Concept/Script: Craig Moore

Original Sound: Tyrone Clarke and Craig Moore

Editor: Nic Goodwin

Gambling Addiction

Charity Organisation: South African Responsible Gambling Foundation

Production House: Realtime Pictures

Producer: Pieter Dreyer

Director: Pieter Dreyer

Concept/Script: Pieter Dreyer

Original Sound: Dianne van Well

Editor: Mark Corrigan

Animation: Pieter Dreyer

The Champion

(Winner in the best editing and best sound design/original music categories)

Charity Organisation: POWA

Production House: Wits University

Producer: Jeffery Rikhotso

Director: Steven Mabunda

Cinematographer: Bonanga Legwale

Concept/Script: Steven Mabunda

Original Sound: Steven Mabunda

Editor: Steven Mabunda

Save Water - While There Is

Charity Organisation: The Mvula Trust and Department of Water Affairs and Forestry

Production House: Independent

Producer: Allan Liddle

Director: Allan Liddle

Cinematographer: Allan Liddle

Concept/Script: Allan Liddle

Original Sound: Helen van der Merwe

Editor: Allan Liddle

Animation: Allan Liddle & Neil Liddle

Short Cut Category - only newcomer

Getting It On

Production House: What Not Entertainment

Producer: Mpho Osei-Tutu

Director: Mpho Osei-Tutu

Cinematographer: James Barber

Concept/Script: Mpho Osei-Tutu, Christo Oberholzer, Tumi Morake and James Barber

Original Sound: N/A

Editor: Mpumi Ngidi

Humour: Mpho Osei-Tutu, Christo Oberholzer, Tumi Morake and James Barber

Says Nolo Letele, CEO of MultiChoice: "Congratulations to all the entrants who have so passionately brought their stories to life, we wish them well in their future endeavours. The Vuka! awards are an extension of MultiChoice's Mission of Enriching Lives and we are proud to be associated with a project that delivers hope and endless opportunity.

"We recognise the need and importance of providing a platform for aspiring filmmakers to showcase the rich heritage of our country. It is an opportunity for both the corporate and film industry to mentor and nurture our talent so that they can also shine on the world stage."

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