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Local filmmakers sweep people's choice awards at T&T Film Fest

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T&T films dominated the People's Choice Awards at the T&T Film Festival Awards ceremony on Tuesday —with the film-viewing audience giving a resounding nod to Oliver Milne's *Salty Dog* as the People's Choice Best Short Film; Shari Petti's *Sorf Hair* as People's Choice Best Documentary and Michael Mooleedhar's *Green Days by the River* as People's Choice Best Narrative Feature. Each received a \$5,000 cash prize sponsored by Flow.



The 2017 Film Festival awardees pose with their awards. They are, from left to right, Maya Cozier, director of Short Drop, Shari Petti, director of Sorf Hair, Di-Andre Caprice Davis, director of Chaotic Beauty, Georgia Popplewell and Karen Martinez (Scattered), Cindy-Ann Gatt, Director of Marketing at Flow, Lesley-Anne MacFarlane (Scattered), Oliver Milne, director of Salty Dog, Kirk Bhajan, winner of Best Future Critic Prize, and Michael Mooleedhar, director Green Days by the River.

It was a great night for *Green Days by the River* as it also picked up the Jury Award for Best TT Feature Film, with a cash prize of \$10,000 sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, a release said.

Another local film getting the Jury's nod was Maya Cozier's *Short Drop*—for Best T&T Short, with a cash prize of \$5,000 sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts. *Scattered* by Georgia Popplewell and Karen Martinez won Best T&T Film in Development with a cash prize of \$10,000. This BPTT-sponsored Award seeks to support the completion of a local feature film currently in pre-production, which is to be made in this country by a T&T resident or national.

Following a week of what MC Golda Lee Bruce described as “an amazing outpouring of love, enthusiasm and appreciation for Caribbean film” the 12th annual Trinidad & Tobago Film Festival was brought to a close with a lively performance from Freetown Collective that had members of the audience dancing in the aisles.

The full list of awards and awardees is as follows:

Jury Prizes

Jury prizes are determined by a panel of regional and international filmmakers and film professionals who view and adjudicate on the films in competition. These were their selections:

BEST FEATURE FILM–NARRATIVE

\$10,000 / Sponsored by FLOW

El Techo (On the Roof) by Patricia Ramos, Cuba

BEST FEATURE FILM–DOCUMENTARY

\$10,000 / Sponsored by FLOW

Jeffrey by Yanillys Perez, Dominican Republic

BEST SHORT FILM

\$5,000 / Sponsored by FLOW

Féfé Limbe by Julien Silloray, Guadeloupe

BEST TRINIDAD & TOBAGO FEATURE FILM

\$10,00 / Sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

Green Days by the River by Michael Mooleedhar

BEST TRINIDAD & TOBAGO SHORT FILM

\$5,000 / Sponsored by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

Short Drop by Maya Cozier

BEST FILM AS DECIDED BY A YOUTH JURY

\$5,000 / Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

El Techo by Patricia Ramos, Cuba

Special Awards

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE

\$5,000

Cargo by Kareem Mortimer, The Bahamas

BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM PRIZE

\$5,000 / Sponsored by T&T Film Festival

Chaotic Beauty by Di-Andre Caprice Davis, Jamaica

BEST T+T FILM IN DEVELOPMENT

\$10,000 each / Sponsored by BP Trinidad and Tobago

Scattered by Karen Martinez and Georgia Popplewell

FUTURE CRITICS PRIZE

\$5,000 / Sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

Kirk Bhajan

People's Choice Awards

\$5,000 each / Sponsored by Flow

BEST FEATURE FILM- NARRATIVE

Green Days by the River, by Michael Mooleedhar, Trinidad and Tobago

BEST FEATURE FILM- DOCUMENTARY:

Sorf Hair by Shari Petti, Trinidad and Tobago

BEST SHORT FILM:

Salty Dog by Oliver Milne, Trinidad and Tobago
