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**The 2016 La Costa Film Festival announces
Filmmaker Awards for the 4th edition of the film festival**



Audiences choose Nathan Appfel's THE LONGEST JOURNEY as both Best of the Festival and Best Documentary Feature Film

Bo Brinkman's LAST MAN CLUB is Best Narrative Feature (Domestic) and Olivier Ringer's BIRDS OF PASSAGE is Best Narrative Feature (Foreign)

Chris Noth was honored on Friday evening with LCFF's first Shining Star Award

CARLSBAD, CA, October 18 — The 4th Annual La Costa Film Festival announced their filmmaker awards on Saturday, October 15 at the renowned Omni La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California. Nathan Appfel's THE LONGEST JOURNEY was the big winner of the evening, taking home the Audience Awards for both Best Documentary Feature Film, as well as Best of the Festival. Bo Brinkman's LAST MAN CLUB was chosen by La Costa FF audiences as Best Narrative Feature Film (Domestic), and Olivier Ringer's BIRDS OF PASSAGE received the Audience nod as Best Narrative Feature (Foreign). The Closing Night Star Awards Gala presentations were preceded by the featured screening of Annie J. Howell and Lisa Robinson's CLAIRE IN MOTION, with star Betsy Brandt in attendance.

La Costa Film Festival Co-Founders, Michael and Ruby Callihan, said, "We were so pleased that both the judges and the audiences had a very difficult time selecting just one winner for each category, with infinitesimal differences between all of their choices. As nerve wracking as that can be for filmmakers, many of them said they've never had a better time. With the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa and Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas La Costa as our hosts, that's easy to understand."

Additional Audience Awards went to Eric 'Ptah' Herbert's MANCHILD: THE SCHEA COTTON STORY for Best Sports Documentary, and Annie O'Neal and Jessica Lewis's PHIL'S CAMINO for Best of the Festival – Short Film. The two student short film award winners were Adam Russell's 168 HOURS (Best High School Competition Short), and Nick DeCell's SOMEWHERE TO BE (Best College Competition Short). Russell is a student at Rancho Buena Vista High School (Vista, CA), and De Cell is a graduate of Florida State University. Russell and De Cell both received a7s cameras, courtesy of SONY, as well as a \$500 cash prize, along with their awards.

Charlene Fisk and Carrie Schrader's THE FOUNDERS took home the jury prize for Best Sports Film, with O'Neal and Lewis's PHIL'S CAMINO winning its second award (Best Documentary Short), Tim Ellrich's THE BATHTUB named as Best Narrative Short, and Melanie Brunt and Mikey Hill's THE ORCHESTRA receiving the award for Best Animated Short.

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Website: www.lacostafilmfestival.org

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Two-time Golden Globe nominee and SAG Award nominated actor Chris Noth was the recipient of the La Costa Film Festival's first Shining Star Award. The award presentation and lively "Under the Stars" conversation reflecting on Noth's award-winning career on television and in film, was moderated by entertainment awards expert and commentator Dave Karger on Friday, October 14. When Noth was asked by Karger if he'd consider making an appearance in the planned spin-off for CBS All Access, he said, "I'd be happy to do a couple of episodes. I'd love to see where that guy ended up. He finished the series just like he started it, by saying he wasn't guilty. He's such a great character."

Tommy Kelly, a charismatic 13-year-old stole the show and was declared the winner of the La Costa Film Festival's second "Reel Pitch" competition, curated by Mike Tollin and Mandalay Sports Media (MSM). His 5-minute pitch to a panel of studio producers and executives selected by MSM, won him the opportunity to refine his pitch under the guidance of one of the judges. He will be mentored for full development of his dream, and presentation to a potential distributor.

The winners of the festival's coveted 'Sip & Savor' Gala Competition, held on Opening Night, were Carruth Cellars (Best Sip), Chandler's Oceanfront Dining (Best Savor), and Bistro West (Best Presentation).

Bookended by Johnathan Brownlee's THREE DAYS IN AUGUST, which opened the festival on Thursday, October 13, with Mariette Hartley joining Brownlee and several cast and crew members in attendance, and the Closing Night Gala screening of Annie Howell and Lisa Robinson's CLAIRE IN MOTION on Saturday, October 15, with Howell and Betsy Brandt, on hand, with both participating in the post-screening Q&A, the La Costa Film Festival enjoyed another year of growth with an estimated 5,000 film fans making their way to the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa to see films and panels and meet the filmmakers.

Other highlights included the world premiere screening, before an audience of a thousand film fans, of Apffel's THE LONGEST JOURNEY. Afterward, Apffel announced a film series to follow, titled The Genetics Collection, looking at ALS, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease. A special 3D screening of TOP GUN wowed the audience at the Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas (6941 El Camino Real), and La Costa FF's filmmaker panels, including the Rapidly Changing Panel curated by Something Creative's Geoff Clark and featuring industry veterans like Amy Keating Rogers (Dexter's Laboratory, Samurai Jack), Zach Moncrief (Family Guy, Phineas and Ferb), and Jared Hillman (THE SOCIAL NETWORK, Psyche), Michael Repsch (Breaking Glass Pictures), Eric Bromberg (Pluto.TV), and Jeff Chao (Kerin Media Ventures).

THE 2016 LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL AUDIENCE AWARDS

Best of the Festival:

THE LONGEST JOURNEY, Director: Nathan Apffel

Best Documentary Feature Film:

THE LONGEST JOURNEY, Director: Nathan Apffel

Best Narrative Feature Film (Domestic):

LAST MAN CLUB, Director: Bo Brinkman

Best Narrative Feature Film (Foreign):

BIRDS OF PASSAGE, Director: Olivier Ringer

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Best Sports Documentary:

MANCHILD: THE SCHEA COTTON STORY, Director: Eric 'Ptah' Herbert

Best of the Festival – Short Film:

PHIL'S CAMINO, Directors: Annie O'Neil and Jessica Lewis

Best High School Competition Short:

168 HOURS, Director: Adam Russell (Rancho Buena Vista High School)

Best College Competition Short:

SOMEWHERE TO BE, Director: Nick DeCell (Florida State University)

THE 2016 LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL JURY SELECTIONS

SPORTS COMPETITION

Best Sports Film:

THE FOUNDERS, Director: Charlene Fisk

SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Best Documentary Short:

PHIL'S CAMINO, Directors: Annie O'Neil and Jessica Lewis

Best Narrative Short:

THE BATHTUB, Director: Tim Ellrich

Best Animated Short:

THE ORCHESTRA, Directors: Melanie Brunt and Mikey Hill

'REEL PITCH' WINNER

Tommy Kelly

SIP & SAVOR – BEST OF THE FEST WINNERS

BEST SIP: Carruth Cellars

BEST SAVOR: Chandler's Oceanfront Dining

BEST PRESENTATION: Bistro West

ABOUT THE LA COSTA FILM FESTIVAL:

The fourth annual La Costa Film Festival is operated through La Costa Dreams, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit public benefit corporation based in Carlsbad, California. It is dedicated to providing world class cinema, red carpet excitement, nightly galas, and an unmatched Hollywood experience in a coastal destination paradise. The Festival is especially appreciative of its partnerships with: their host the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa; Cinépolis Luxury Cinemas; the City of Carlsbad Tourism BID Board, the San Diego County Supervisors and the City of Carlsbad Cultural Arts for their strong support. For a full list of sponsors visit: www.lacostafilmfestival.org.

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