

Feature Documentary Award

PRESUMED GUILTY

Presumed Guilty is a truly remarkable film, one built from the classic elements of documentary - a strong, highly sympathetic central character, a driving narrative that inexorably draws you in, and the shedding of light upon the outrageous persecution of the innocent. The film exposes the corrupt and broken judicial system in Mexico - over 90 percent of all crimes are 'solved' within 3 hours - usually by the Mexican police rounding up the nearest available suspect.

The film delivers enormous suspense as Tonio, an obviously innocent man convicted of murder, confronts the witness and police officers who conspired to put him behind bars. You watch breathlessly as they lie and dissemble. This struggle between truth and falsehood takes many surprising twists and turns. By the end, the filmmakers have managed to bring to life one man's lonely struggle for justice and make it feel deeply important to every one of us.

LAST TRAIN HOME

Last Train Home is a celebration of the power and expression of documentary filmmaking by a master. Each year, millions upon millions of Chinese factory workers embark on the greatest human migration ever as they struggle to get home to the countryside during the Chinese New Year holiday. Director Lixin Fan captures this human drama with a visceral urgency. He bravely defies conventional documentary logic by choosing a thoroughly ordinary family - and the film is all the more powerful for it.

This is a film that directly connects us, here in London, with millions of faceless Chinese workers - the world's new working class living in Dickensian conditions - with a mesmerising intensity.

MUGABE AND THE WHITE AFRICAN

Mugabe and the White African is the compelling story of one family's fearless stand against tyranny. The filmmakers achieved an astonishing level of intimacy and warmth towards their characters that stood in contrast to the violent threats they faced. Building a deep bond between its audience and its participants, this film is a testament to the quiet courage of individuals determined to pay any price to hold on to what is rightfully theirs, and a reminder that oppression knows no cultural or ethnic barriers.

The Jury's Decision

The judges were faced with a unique dilemma - two films that excelled in their impact and importance. One which led you into a hidden world, the other that made you burn with anger. Their different approaches were polar opposites and yet they both fully realised the goals of One World Media.

In these circumstances we felt it appropriate to celebrate both films for their extraordinary contribution to documentary filmmaking and to the wider goal of bringing the world closer together.

The two winners are:

Presumed Guilty and **Last Train Home**.

Jury panel:

CHAIR: Tom Roberts, Director, October Films
Alan Hayling, Editorial Director, Renegade Pictures
Natasha Dack, Director, Tigerlily Films

