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Independent Filmmakers Showcase L.A.

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Issue date: 6/8/11 Section: Entertainment

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The New Filmmakers Los Angeles presented a series of shorts on May 21 that positively highlighted the city of Los Angeles. The shorts were entries for a contest hosted by On Location: Los Angeles Video project, six of which received prizes.

A one-minute short directed by Varda Hardy, titled "Ode to Los Angeles," won grand prize in the contest. She was awarded a production package worth \$100,000 from Equilibrium Entertainment, \$1,000 cash, and a two-week filming permit.

Hardy said there were 26 people involved in the one day it took to shoot the film, and that they went to 10 locations.

She said although she was initially unsure about making the short, she was grateful to have done so.

"In the past, I have made movies in which I have had to ask for favors," Hardy said. "And that following my initial resistance to doing this again, I became enamored of the making 'Ode To Los Angeles' and soon fell in love this project and very much wanted to make it as an expression of my appreciation of Los Angeles and its abundantly creative culture. I love this film and am grateful to all my collaborators who contributed to its beauty."

Two other productions ("You Are Home" directed by Shannon Latimer and "Dear Babushka" directed by Natan Moss) won first place and were each awarded \$500 cash. A one-minute short by Karl Polverio, titled "Los Angeles - Not Just Angels," and a four-minute short by Luc Delamare and Caroline Dunaway, titled "This is LA," won honorable mentions.



Media Credit: Shaun Kelly
INDIE HEART OF HOLLYWOOD: New filmmakers strut their stuff at festival of short films.



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The audience also got the opportunity to participate in the judging process, by voting for their favorite video. The winners of the audience award were the shorts by Hardy and Moss, who won grand prize and first place, respectively.

Insider Magazine (Glendale) Industry professionals emphasized that Los Angeles is the film capital of the world, and the independently produced projects presented Saturday evening at Sunset Gower Studios in Hollywood proved this statement true.

A total of 22 shorts were screened that evening, and each uniquely portrayed Los Angeles as the ideal destination for tourists.

Among the evening's attendees included producer, director, and writer Demian Lichtenstein ("3000 Miles to Graceland," 2001), and "(500) Days of Summer" producer Steven Wolfe.

The event was presented by New Filmmakers Los Angeles, a non-profit organization that aims to showcase the works of emerging filmmakers worldwide. It also provides entertainment to Los Angeles professionals and moviegoers by hosting monthly screenings and forums where filmmakers can discuss projects and network with others in the film industry.

Entries presented at the showcase can be viewed online at <http://www.newfilmmakersla.com/onlocation>.

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