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From left: Ashok Meena, Deyali Mukherjee, Danyal Scheidegg and Arun Kamble won cash prize for the film

FIIians bag first prize for short film, *A Wish*

The contest 'Reels & Lives' was organised by FHI 360

Khushboo Upadhyay

A short film *A Wish* made by first-year batch students of Pune's Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), has bagged the first prize in the short film-making competition named 'Reels & Lives'. The contest was recently organised nationwide by FHI 360 organisation under its 'Meet the Heroes' project.

The scriptwriter of the film, Arun Kamble, went to Mumbai to receive the award on behalf of the cast and crew.

The three-minute film is based on a small girl who is HIV-positive. The movie is based on her life in the brothel and how she dreams about uniting with her mother. There is a transition in the film from the girl's real life at a brothel to her dreamland, where she is with her mother.

The jury for the competition included renowned film industry personalities like film directors Shyam Benegal, Karan Johar, Onir and actress Shabana Azmi.

The director and editor of the film, Danyal Scheidegg, a



A still from the movie, *A Wish*

MOVIE MAGIC

The short film: *A Wish*

Direction & editing: Danyal Scheidegg

Story: Arun Kamble

Art direction: Deyali Mukherjee

Cinematography: Ashok Meena

Cast: Sakshi Kadamb (as the child), Khushboo Upadhyay (as the mother), Ankita Gupta, Resh Lamba, Jayachandra, Swati Jaiswal, Srishti Wadhvani, Kshama Padalkar and Dinesh Yadav

direction student at the institute, said, "This award comes as a pleasant surprise. The whole film was shot in one day, within limited sources available to us."

Ashok Meena, cinematographer of the film, said, "We

did go to the red-light area in Budhwar Peth to hunt for a location and study the atmosphere. But finally, we decided to take up the challenge and design the set in one of the spots on the campus with proper lights and props."

"I decided to go for the primary colour palette for the set and costumes with artificial lights to create the ambience of a brothel and morning natural light to create the dream sequence," added Deyali Mukherjee, art director of the film. She said that the best moment in the film was the transition point where the colour of the film fades from bright to subtle and opens up into the dreamland of the child, where her mother is waiting for her.

On the whole experience, Scheidegg said though the film's copyright does not belong to them anymore, but the project has encouraged the team to work more and make interesting films in the future. He said without the co-ordination between the cast and crew members, the film would never have happened.