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Film on Anna's stir wins top honours

German Film 'If Not Us, Who?' Best In World Cinema Category

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Pune: 'Ha Bharat Mazha' won the Sant Tukaram Best Marathi Film award at the closing ceremony of the 10th Pune International Film Festival (Piff) at City Pride, Kothrud, on Thursday. Directed by Sumitra Bhavne and Sunil Sukthankar, the film depicts the effects of Anna Hazare's anti-graft movement on an Indian middle-class family. The film walked away with a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh instituted by the Government of Maharashtra.

Other top winners in the Marathi film competition category include Umesh Kulkarni (best director for 'Deool'), Uttara Baokar as best actor for 'Ha Bharat Mazha' and Subodh Bhavne as best actor for 'Bal-gandharva'.

The function was attended by Faujia Khan, minister of state for culture, Anand Kulkarni, principal secretary for culture, tourism and excise, and Ashutosh Ghorpade, state



The team of 'Ha Bharat Mazha' receives the best Marathi film award at the Piff on Thursday



director; cultural affairs, among other dignitaries.

The German film, 'If Not Us, Who?' by Andres Veiel, won the Best International Film award in the World Cinema competition category. The filmmakers got a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. Asghar Farhadi from Iran was adjudged best director for the film 'Nader & Simin: A Separation,' and Kolkata-based director Somnath Gupta won the audience award for best world competition film, instituted this year at Piff.

Adding much musical flavour to the evening was the Top Dog Brass Band from Germany, who performed in perfect synchrony with Pune-based 'tutari' player Ganesh Sonawane.

"Cinema is a medium of love and unity. Instituting the student film awards and Marathi film awards are some of the highlights of Piff. Students need a platform to showcase their talent and Marathi films, too, are gaining international recognition," said Khan, who gave away the awards.

Among the student film awards, Nandita Jain's 'Kahanikar' was declared best animation film (Indian) and 'OZO' The Supinfocom International Institute, Arles, France received the best animation film (international) award. Nikhil Mulay, Sylvester Fonseca and Renu Awant from Pune's Film and Television Institute of In-

Best film	'Ha Bharat Mazha' by Sumitra Bhawe and Sunil Sukthankar
Best director	Umesh Kulkarni for 'Deool'
Best actor (male)	Subodh Bhawe for 'Balgandharva'
Best actor (female)	Uttara Baokar for 'Ha Bharat Mazha'
Best screenplay	Abhiram Bhadkamkar for 'Balgandharva'
Best cinematography	Sudhakar Reddy for 'Deool'
Special Jury award	Producers Vivek Wagh and Nilesh Navalakha for 'Shala'
Special mentions by the jury (child artistes)	Anshuman Joshi for 'Shala,' Chinmay Sant for 'Jana Gana Mana' and Shubham More for 'Khalti Doka Var Paay'
Audience Award for Best Marathi Competition Film	'Shala' by Sujay Dahake
WORLD CINEMA COMPETITION CATEGORY	
Best film	'If Not Us, Who?' by Andres Veiel (Germany)
Best director	Asghar Farhadi for 'Nader & Simin: A Separation' (Iran)
Special Jury Award	Producer Alexandr Gundorov and director, Yuri Shiller for 'Sparrow' (Russia)
Audience award for best film	'Ami Aadu' directed by Somnath Gupta
WHISTLING WOODS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FILM AWARDS	
Best animation film (Indian)	'Kahanikar' by Nandita Jain from National Film and Television School, UK
Best animation film (international)	'OZO' by The Supinfocom International Institute, Arles, France.
Promising Indian Audiographer	Nikhil Mulay, from Film and Television Institute of India, for 'Shankarnama'
Promising Indian Cinematographer	Sylvester Fonseca, from Film and Television Institute of India, for 'Open Cafe v2.5'
Best script	Francisco Valle R, from Mexico's Centro di Capacitation Cinematografica, for 'Busco Empleo'
Best director	Aarambh Singh, from Whistling Woods International, for 'The Rose Bed'
Best film	'NISA' by The University of California, Los Angeles, USA
Best student of the year (direction)	Renu Sawant from Film and Television Institute of India

dia (FTII), were adjudged promising Indian audiographer, promising Indian cinematographer and best student of the

year (director), respectively.

Kulkarni talked about the possibilities of having similar festivals in other parts of the

state. "Let's go outside Pune, as well, and have such film festivals especially in smaller cities like Amravati and Aurangabad,

to name some. We must connect tourism with culture."

The competition category films were judged by an international jury that included German filmmakers, Heinz Badwitz and Florian Steimbiss, Indian director Girish Kasaravalli, Australian director Nadia

Tass, filmmaker Borys Mankosz from USA, Iranian actress Laleh Eskandar, South African actress Moshidi Motshewga, and producer-director Ranjith Kumar from India. PIFF 2012 concluded with the screening of 'If Not Us, Who?' from Germany.