

## Winners of Ninth Imperial War Museum Film Festival Announced

Awards Ceremony: Tuesday 2 February 2010, 6.30pm, Imperial War Museum London

A film about the impact of the Holocaust on the city of Vilnius, a documentary about the good luck charms carried into battle by military servicemen and a drama about a supposed assassination attempt on the life of Adolf Hitler, were all winners in this year's Imperial War Museum Film Festival.

In the ninth year that the Imperial War Museum has held its Festival for student and amateur filmmakers, 21 titles were screened, with the majority competing in one of three award categories: Winner of the Audience Poll, and judged categories Annie Dodds Award for the Best Documentary and Best Imaginative Response to the Subject of War.

The Winner of the Audience Poll was *Surviving History* (2009), a documentary exploring the imprint of the heritage of Jewish life in Vilnius, Lithuania, a city where most of the Jewish population perished in the Holocaust. The twenty-eight minute film was produced by Shivaun Wolfson and Frances Tay, both PhD students at the University of Sussex, and it was shot and directed by Shivaun's sons, Jesse and Daniel Quinones. The judges remarked on the powerful interviews with Holocaust survivors which were obtained and the quality of the camerawork.

The Annie Dodds Award for the Best Documentary was awarded to *The Things They Carried* (2009), a documentary about the good luck charms carried by military servicemen into battle. This fluent and imaginatively shot film was written and directed by Liberty Smith, and produced by both Liberty and Ronan Glynn. Liberty and Ronan made *The Things They Carried* while studying Media Practise at the London College of Communications. The judges were united in their praise for the interesting and unusual subject matter chosen for this film and the power of the interviews with military veterans, but they were divided about the novel camera technique that was adopted to film the charms. Adam Bullmore, whose company October Films sponsors this award, described *The Things They Carried* as, 'A fresh, revealing and intimate insight into the lives of the fighting man.'

The winner of the Best Imaginative Response to the Subject of War was *Red Letter* (2007/08) a drama about an attempt by a British agent, posing as a German soldier, to execute Adolf Hitler while he addressed a rally in occupied France. *Red Letter* was directed and written by Edilberto Restino and produced by Christianne van Wijk. The ten-minute drama was made by Edilberto, Christianne and a large crew of fellow students, studying for a BA in Filmmaking at the Brighton Film School. The judges were impressed with the high production values attained by this student crew and especially the quality of the camerawork and acting. They also noted how convincingly Brighton was shot so that it looked like Paris.

The winning films, clips from the runners-up, plus other Festival films will be shown during the awards ceremony in the Museum Cinema on Tuesday 2 February 2010, 6.30pm. All filmmakers who participated in the Festival are invited as well as the panel of judges and other guests from the British film and television industry.

Those wishing to attend the ceremony can apply for a free ticket by emailing Teresa Silk at [tsilk@iwm.org.uk](mailto:tsilk@iwm.org.uk) by 25 January 2010.

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Imperial War Museum Film Festival is sponsored by History™, Prime Focus and October Films



Notes to Editors

#### IWM Film Festival

The Imperial War Museum Film Festival offers the opportunity for student and amateur filmmakers who have made films about the Museum's subject matter or that incorporate archive footage from the Museum's collection to have their work screened publicly in the cinema at IWM London. Each title screened in the Festival is also eligible to be entered into the competition, for which there are three categories: Annie Dodds Award for the Best Documentary, Best Imaginative Response to the Subject of War, and Winner of the Audience Poll.

All the titles in the Festival are screened an equal number of times at Imperial War Museum London in November and December. Members of the audience are given an opportunity to vote on each title screened. The results of these votes determine the outright winner of the Audience Poll, as well as generating the shortlist of leading contenders in the other two categories, which are then viewed by a panel of judges drawn from Museum staff and professionals from the film and television industry.

This year the external judges were: the television producer Sally Angel of Angel Films; Adam Bullmore, Creative Director and Executive Producer at October Film; Richard Melman, Channel Director for History; Martin Rogers, Archive and Restoration Specialist at Prime Focus; Genevieve Simms, an employee of Sky and twice a winner of the IWM Film Festival; and Elinor Unwin, who works for Film London in Audience Development.

The Museum is now accepting DVDs, films and videos for consideration for inclusion in the Tenth Imperial War Museum Film Festival, which will run in November and December 2010. For more details and to download an entry form visit: [www.iwm.org.uk/filmcompetition](http://www.iwm.org.uk/filmcompetition) or [www.thehistorychannel.co.uk](http://www.thehistorychannel.co.uk), or telephone Toby Haggith or Matthew Lee on 020 7416 5293/4.

#### Imperial War Museum

The national museum of the experiences of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since 1914.

The Imperial War Museum is the museum of everyone's story: the history of modern conflict told through the stories of those who were there. It is an educational and historical institution responsible for archives, collections and sites of outstanding national importance.

The Museum's five branches are Imperial War Museum London, with six floors of exhibitions and displays; Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; the Second World War cruiser HMS *Belfast*; Imperial War Museum Duxford, a world renowned aviation museum and former Second World War airfield; and Imperial War Museum North, housed in a spectacular award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind.

#### Imperial War Museum Film and Video Archive

The Imperial War Museum's Film and Video Archive is one of the oldest film archives in the world, and its collections extend to over 20,000 hours of film and video. In addition to the two world wars, all aspects of conflicts in which British or Commonwealth forces have been involved since the start of the twentieth century are covered, from the Boer War to Bosnia and beyond. The collection also reflects aspects of civilian life in wartime and military life in peacetime as well as military operations.

#### History™

History™ broadcasts factual documentaries and is available on satellite and cable television services throughout the UK and Ireland to over nine million subscribers via Sky channels 529, 530 (+1) and 545 (HD).

History™ brings you an unparalleled schedule of high quality documentaries that bring the past to life and connects our modern world with its historic roots. Its accessible style, narrative storytelling and high quality production recreates the past in a way that makes it vivid, real and relevant. History™ sponsors the Audience Poll.

#### October Films

October Films is a leading British independent film and television production company based in London. October Films produces content for broadcasters worldwide and has a well-established reputation for intelligent factual programming including hard-hitting current affairs, factual entertainment series, observational documentary and history and science programmes. Since 1989, our productions have received over 90 international awards. We are pleased to support the Film Festival and the Annie Dodds Award for Best Documentary.

#### Prime Focus

Formerly known as The Machine Room, TMR and later Blue, Prime Focus provides specialist duplication, post production and DVD production services to all areas of the visual media industry, corporate clients and Government bodies. Prime Focus has a proven archival focus and a strong commitment to restoration and preservation. Our specialist archive team has a broad knowledge of film, sound and digital technology with working experience going back over forty years, and we are happy to use this experience to encourage and advise young filmmakers. We are pleased to support the IWM Film Festival Awards and currently have a former winner on our staff. Prime Focus sponsors the Best Imaginative Response to the Subject of War.