

“Black Rabbit, White Rabbit” remporte le premier prix aux Golden Coconut Awards

The mysterious film "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" by Iranian director Shahram Mokri won the Best Film award at the Golden Coconut Awards ceremony. This concluded the 7th Hainan Island International Film Festival (HIIFF) in Sanya, Hainan Province, on December 9.

Representatives of "Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" take the stage to receive the Best Film award at the closing ceremony of the 7th Hainan Island International Film Festival and the Golden Coconut Awards in Sanya, Hainan Province, on December 9, 2025. [Photo courtesy of the HIIFF Organizing Committee]

This film, a co-production between Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates, stars renowned Tajik actors Babak Karimi, Hasti Mohammadi, and Kibriyo Dilyobova. This bold drama weaves three seemingly unrelated stories into one through fluid and skillfully choreographed shots: a film set armorer suspects a prop gun is real, an aspiring actor demands an audition, and a car accident victim fears their crash was deliberate.

Mokri entrusted the film's production designer with reading his thank-you letter at the HIIFF ceremony. He thanked the entire team, "because this film is the result of everyone's collaboration." He expressed his hope to return to Hainan in the future to present new films.

"Black Rabbit, White Rabbit" has been selected to represent Tajikistan in the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards.

This year, the HIIFF received 4,564 submissions from 119 countries and regions. Of these, 14 feature films, 6 documentaries, and 10 short films were selected to compete for the Golden Coconut Awards. All prizes and awards were presented by a jury chaired by Marco Müller, a renowned Italian curator, producer, and academic specializing in film festivals.

Mr. Müller emphasized that, during the process, the jury had viewed numerous highly exploratory films, showcasing diverse creative approaches and modes of expression. The works selected this year span three generations of filmmakers, reflecting a convergence of cinematic power across different eras. "We hope that the final results of this jury will live up to this diverse and inclusive cinematic platform," he stated.

"A Dance in Vain" by Lee Hong-chi and "Phantoms of July" by Julian Radlmaier shared the Grand Jury Prize.

The Chinese film "A Dance in Vain" was awarded for its keen cultural observation and authentic emotional expression, according to the jury's comment.

"I have always viewed filmmaking as a continuous learning process, without any utilitarian intent. I choose to film anything that moves me or sparks my interest," said director Lee. He also thanked the film's lead actress, Wang Zixuan, who is also his wife, for her support throughout their journey.

The directors of "A Dance in Vain" and "Phantoms of July" take the stage to receive the Grand Jury Prize at the closing ceremony of the 7th Hainan Island International Film Festival and the Golden Coconut Awards ceremony in Sanya, Hainan Province, on December 9, 2025. [Photo courtesy of the HIIFF Organizing Committee]

Joel Alfonso Vargas won the Best Director award for his film "Mad Bills to Pay." Destiny Checo, Yohanna Florentino, and Nathaly Navarro shared the Best Actress award for their excellent chemistry and nuanced performances.

Theodore Pellerin won the award for best actor for his performance in the French film "Nino".

Sophy Romvari and Miguel de Zuviria shared the award for best screenwriter for their works "Blue Heron" and "Brought with the Storm," respectively. "Mare's Nest" won the award for best visual effects.

Ye Zhenpeng's "Eternal Summer" was recognized as the best Chinese contribution of the year. In his acceptance speech, Ye stated that this film about youth was his first film, made at the age of 21, while thanking the HIIFF for providing opportunities for young filmmakers.

"Hair, Paper, Water...." by Nicolas Graux and Truong Minh Quy won the award for best documentary film, while "L'mina" by Randa Maroufi won the award for best short film.

The jury also awarded two special mentions: "I Sing, I Love, I Exist" by Wang Yu received a special mention for documentary film, and "Ayi" received a special mention for short film.

The closing ceremony of the 7th Hainan Island International Film Festival and the Golden Coconut Awards ceremony took place in Sanya, Hainan Province, on December 9, 2025. [Photo courtesy of the HIIFF Organizing Committee]

The 7th Hainan International Film Festival (HIIFF) concluded Tuesday evening. The festival featured the Golden Coconut Forum, masterclasses, pitch sessions for emerging filmmakers, film events commemorating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand, and the premiere of James Cameron's "Avatar: Fire and Ash." As a pioneering project in the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port, HIIFF garnered global attention thanks to its professional evaluation criteria and multicultural vision.

About the Author

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