



MONDAY 7 MARCH 2011

MAYA NEWELL WINS F4 AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING NEW DOCUMENTARY TALENT

Last night Joost den Hartog, Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference announced **Maya Newell** as the recipient of the 2011 **F4 Award For Outstanding New Documentary Talent**. The Award was presented during the final night of the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival.

Newell's documentary *TWO* was chosen out of four films which had been selected as finalists for showing at F4. Around 80 entries had been received from emerging Australian documentary makers.

BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA, directed by **Sieh Mchawala** received a special mention.

The judging panel consisted of F4 Jury President GIL SCRINE (Jury President), Director of Gil Scrine Films, and FIONA LAWSON-BAKER, Executive Producer of Ten Alps Asia, ANNA MIRALIS, Editor More4 of Channel 4, JENNY NEIGHBOUR, Programs Manager of Sydney Film Festival and PETER NEWMAN, Executive Producer Factual of SBS Australia.

F4 Jury President GIL SCRINE says, "On behalf of the F4 jury I'd like to congratulate all four filmmakers. We were tasked with deciding which of them reflected the best emerging talent in the constellation of talents needed to be a documentary filmmaker, a tough assignment because all films require different talents.

"The jury agreed unanimously on *TWO* because it displays the sensitivity needed for its extremely delicate subject. It was closely observed yet discreet and powerful in its simple depiction of this quite bizarre and little known corner of the human condition.

"The jury also highly commends the film *BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA* for its portrait of resilience in its central characters and the way their resourcefulness and undying optimism takes its audience into a tricky third world situation that they are determined to affect."

In 2011 **F4** has been co-presented by the Australian International Documentary Conference and the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival.

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TWO Director Maya Newell / 2010 / 18mins

TWO is an exposé of a secret personal world of adult babies, with the focus on an eccentric middle-aged British man who is locked into a continual state of wanting to be two years old. Lodged in an adult nursery outside London, pampered by an adoring nanny, it's a much-misunderstood world of fantasies, role playing, dress-ups and a nostalgia for original love. Freud would've scratched his head. *TWO* has just received its world premiere at the Slamdance Film Festival in the US. *TWO* will next be presented at the Sarasota Film Festival in Florida in April.



MAYA NEWELL biography

At 17 Maya Newell directed her first feature documentary *RICHARD: THE MOST INTERESTINGEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET*, which travelled to Market Du Film Cannes, Perth Revelation Film Festival and won Best Director for Documentary at Singapore First Film Fest. After completing a Diploma and BA in Communications/Media at University of Technology Sydney/Westminster, London, Maya is editing, shooting and writing many stories including a feature documentary with 'Gaybies' - kids with gay parents, like herself.

BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA Director Sieh Mchawala / 2011 / 57mins



Sieh Mchawala follows South Australian siblings Kyra and Aidan Glasby on a series of journeys to help the people of an Ethiopian village. During the year they fundraise for projects such as a clinic and a garden. Their sojourns in Ethiopia are amazing tests of resilience and ability to improvise. Student nurse Kyra finds herself treating gunshot wounds for the first time, while Aidan learns to fix anything. But good intentions only get you so far. The locals don't immediately want to adopt the schemes of outsiders, especially when they disturb the status quo. You need to negotiate, to be patient, and perhaps a bit crazy. Generosity lives close to home, even when it is practised so far away. This observational style work is testament to an impressive 4-year commitment by the filmmaker to his characters and their mission. He skilfully manages to 'be there' to capture key moments in which they reveal themselves and drive the narrative home to its conclusion. *BAREFOOT IN ETHIOPIA* will air on ABC TV later this year.