

Feb 27, 2013

The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought  
Amman, Jordan

Dear Honorable Judges,

It is my highest honor to write to bring to your attention the efforts of Renee De Palma who launched what is to be an annually successful film festival, during this year's World Interfaith Harmony Week called the **World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival**, in Los Angeles, California, United States of America.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. De Palma for 8 years and have witnessed first-hand her gracious and loving nature. She is peaceful and wise with an openness that is inspiring and nurturing. Through her I have been invited to celebrations of all kinds of religions that I would never have been invited to otherwise. I am a better person because of our friendship.

We met because of our mutual love of film and our desire to share stories with the world. It did not surprise me when she announced that she was going to start the **World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival**, although I was surprised that she was to put it together in less than 3 months and without any sponsorship. Renee had boundless faith that this event would come together. The saying "Build it and they will come" (from the hit film Field of Dreams) could not be truer than with this event.

It should also be noted that this was not a one night affair which would still be an accomplishment but a festival that spanned the entire week to coincide the World Interfaith Harmony Week and included events at different distinguished and spiritual locations across Los Angeles, including the Skirball center.

What takes many international film festivals 5 years to achieve the **World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival** pulled off in its first year. Films from around the world crossing every religious and spiritual belief were submitted. Selections included the following esteemed and award films;

**Best Feature Documentary U.S.A.**

**SHIFT OF THE AGES**

**Best International Feature Documentary**

**(A Tie) THE BLUE JEWEL (Germany) & HEART OF A MURDERER**

**(Italy)**

**Best Short Film U.S.A.**

**GOD AND ALLAH NEED TO TALK**



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**Best International Short Film**

**ANIMATING THE GOLDEN RULE**

**Environmental Harmony Award**

**THE BLUE JEWEL**

**Women Of Vision and Harmony Award**

**(A Tie) DIALOGUE IN NIGERIA and SAINT KATHERINE DREXEL**

**Best Youth Film**

**AN INTERFAITH CAROL**

**Audience Choice Award (International)**

**THE TIME IS...NOW**

**Audience Choice Award (U.S.A.)**

**FINDING JOE**

This short list of films clearly represents the spectrum of beliefs and nationalities that the World Interfaith Harmony Week wishes to share and inform the world of.

The festival was sold out for the entire week and featured speakers and audience members from around the world. There were presentations and discussion opportunities in every corner. People shared food, cultural artifacts and beliefs in the courtyard, in their seats and from the stage.

A film festival is a costly venture and I am very impressed with Ms. De Palma's resourcefulness but more over her graciousness to begin something of this magnitude and to self-finance through her commitment to better the world through cinematic story telling.

It is without hesitation that I know that any gift awarded to Ms. De Palma and the ***World Interfaith Harmony Film Festival*** will absolutely be used to pay forward the efforts and agenda of the World Interfaith Harmony Week initiative. By nurturing this film festival World Interfaith Harmony Week will expand exponentially with exposure from the epicenter of news and culture and I urge you to bestow your highest honor on them to continue the good works.

With sincerest respect,

Jessica Kill  
President of Development  
Popular Press Media Group

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