



BABELGUM ONLINE FILM FESTIVAL

Spike Lee opens competition to include all student film schools

Further points specified at the last Jury's Meeting in Venice are:

- Contest opened to all short and medium feature films professionally produced
- Babelgum will hold online rights to all accepted films on a NON exclusive basis
- A 20.000€ cash prize will complement the advertising revenue share already at stake for winners
- Final gala ceremony scheduled for the Cannes Film Festival (May 2008)

LONDON, ENGLAND, 04 September, 2007 - Following the announcement of the Babelgum Online Film Festival which took place at the Venice Film Festival on 1st September and the last meeting of the jury to define the final set of rules, Babelgum today released further information and updates regarding the festival terms and conditions.

- The festival will now be opened to all professionally produced content meeting the qualifying criteria and not solely to films screened at international film festivals. **At Spike Lee's specific request, film schools students will be allowed to participate under equal conditions.**
- Babelgum will hold online rights to all accepted films for one year (March 2008-March 2009) on a NON-exclusive basis, with the sole exception of content appearing on similar 'peer to peer' streaming web TV services.
- A prize of €20,000 (\$27,248 at current rates) will be offered to winners in each of the six categories. In addition to that, filmmakers and content owners will also benefit from a share of any advertising revenue.
- Winners will be announced at a gala ceremony currently scheduled for May 2008 during the Cannes Film Festival.

Further detail:

- Entry dates: 15 September, 2007 - 15 February, 2008.
- No entrance fee will be charged.
- Films must be submitted by rights owners only.
- All content must be limited to 45 minutes maximum but films competing in the Shorts category should be approximately 20 minutes in length.
- Submissions must be in English or include English subtitles if in another language.
- Offensive or pornographic material will not be accepted. Babelgum encourages freedom of intellectual expression,



not excluding controversial moral, social, political and economical issues however Babelgum reserves the right to exclude material if it judges it to be gratuitously offensive or pornographic.

Full terms and conditions will be published on the Babelgum web site (www.babelgum.com) on 15th September.

About The Babelgum Online Film Festival

Festival Categories:

- **The Babelgum Looking for Genius Award** -- Awarded to new or emerging talent who display clear and outstanding achievement through direction.
- **The Babelgum Short Film Award** -- Awarded to the best short film (under 20 minutes) that presents a clear, concise and original vision using the short film genre.
- **The Babelgum Documentary Award** - Awarded to the documentary that best presents its subject in a truthful and fair manner while being original and thought provoking.
- **The Babelgum Animation Award** - Awarded to the film that best displays story and the craft of animation.
- **The Babelgum Social/Environment Award** - Awarded to the best film that effectively addresses an issue impacting the world today.
- **The Babelgum Spot/Advertising Award** - Awarded to the most creative advertising spot highlighting a certain product.

Members of the Jury

- Honorary Judge, renowned writer/director/producer Spike Lee
- Joe Bateman, Festival Director of the Rushes Soho Shorts Festival (U.K.)
- Ally Derks, Director of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- Bhuvan Lall, founder of the Indian Independent Filmmakers Worldwide Association (India)
- Tiziana Loschi, Managing Director of the Annecy International Animated Film Festival/Citia (France)
- Joe Neulight, co-founder and president of Withoutabox (U.S.)
- Sandra Ruch, executive director of the International Documentary Association (U.S.)
- Teri Schwartz, dean of the Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television (U.S.)
- Jess Search, Co-Founder of Shooting People (U.K)
- Carl Spence, artistic director of the Seattle International Film Festival/Director of Programming of the Palm Springs International Film Festival (U.S.)



Judging Process

- In February, Films submitted for the competition will first be showcased on the Babelgum Online Film Festival Channel on Babelgum, where the public will be able to rate each film.
- In March, the ten highest rated films of each category will then be screened by the members of the Jury.
- Based on the Jury's ratings, the top three films of each category will then be presented to **Spike Lee** for personal review and final award selection.
- Winners in each category will be invited to an awards ceremony and gala luncheon to receive their award from **Spike Lee**.

About Babelgum

Babelgum is a next generation global Internet TV network. Babelgum uses peer-to-peer technology to provide the immersive viewing and high resolution of traditional TV with the interactive and personalisation capabilities of the Internet.

Babelgum allows users to enjoy free, on demand and personalised channels, using niche to mainstream content to satisfy their passionate need for tailored entertainment. Instead of user-generated clips, it features only professional video material spanning film, news, sports, documentaries, music videos, concerts, lifestyle and trends, animation and scripted programs.

Babelgum provides independent content owners with a protected platform on which to gain global visibility for their work and a unique model to monetise their content online. Founded in 2005, Babelgum is a privately held company, with headquarters in Ireland and offices in the U.K., France, Italy and soon the U.S.

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