PRIX CIRCOM REGIONAL PROGRAMME AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The winning programmes in Europe's richest awards for television productions were announced today (Saturday 23 April) after the judging session in Kolding, Denmark.

The BBC has won three of the awards. The others are won by stations from Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Croatia, France and Ireland.

The Grand Prix for Documentary is won by "Insanely Dangerous?", a film about how a young schizophrenic who hijacked a train with a gun faces up to his illness and how his family tries to help him through his mental hell. It was made by TV2 Østjylland from Denmark. The producer was Irene Thyrri. The station wins the specially-designed trophy and prize money of 7,500 euros: Thyrri wins travel and accommodation to the Circom Regional conference, hosted by the BBC, in Liverpool 26-28 May.

The Prix for News is won by "South East Undercover - Dirty Hospital" made by BBC South East, UK. The editor was John Hunt. The BBC wins a trophy and prize money of 5,000 euros. Hunt is also invited to the conference.

The awards were announced by David Lowen, Chairman of the Prix Circom Regional Awards, today at TVSYD in Kolding.

The cash value of the awards is 35,000 euros – plus a trophy, trip to the Circom Regional Annual Conference for the winning producer and the prestige and publicity which goes with winning one of the most sought after prizes in European television. The awards will be presented next month at a special ceremony during Circom Regional Annual Conference in Liverpool, UK.

In all, eight awards were decided by the judges meeting over four days at the Comwell Kolding Hotel, Kolding. Other programmes were specially commended. There were 177 entries from 21 different countries.

The joint winners of the Current Affairs Award, sponsored by the European Parliament, are "Guerrilla School", TVP Bialystok, Poland, and "Security Wars", BBC Scotland, UK. The award is worth 6,500 euros. The producers were Jerzy Kalina (TVP) and Iain Overton (BBC).

The winner of the Cross Border Programme Award, sponsored by the European organisation the Committee of the Regions, is "City Folk", HRT Zagreb –Croatia produced by Daniela Drastata

The winner of the Sports Programme Award is "A Football Club and a Factory" France 3 Bourgogne France-Comte, France. The award is sponsored by ERT3 Thessaloniki in Greece and is worth 3,000 euros. The producer is Laurent Lutaud.

The winner of the Most Original Programme award is "My Name is Yu Ming", TG4 Ireland. The producer is Daniel O'Hara. The award is sponsored by TVP3, the Polish regional channel and is worth 3,000 euros.

The winner of the SVT Sweden prize for Documentaries is "Miracle Babies", BBC London, UK. The producer is Dippy Chaudhary . The award is worth 3,000 euros.

The winner of the France 3 Award for Documentaries is "The Hardest Trick", SVT Mitt Nytt (Sundsvall) Sweden, produced by Kriston Hanell. The award is worth 3,000 euros.

The programmes specially commended by the judges are:

- Documentary   Robert and the Shadows (France3 Sud, France)
- News   Tempest in the Idyllic Archipelago
  (SVT ABC Stockholm, Sweden)
- Current Affairs   Week 19 (RTV Rijnmond The Netherlands)
- Sport   Ringy (TG4 Ireland) and Leontien's Sister
  (RTV Rijnmond The Netherlands)
- Most Original   Girls from Nowa Huta (TVP3 Krakow Poland))

The judges were from regional television stations in 14 different European states.

David Lowen, chairman of the awards, said today: "These programmes are selected as winners by professionals. They know what makes good television and all the winners deserve their accolades."

Circom Regional is an organisation of almost 300 public service broadcasting stations in the regions of Europe and across 38 states. It was created to foster links between regional television stations.

For detailed text of the jury report please check: http://www.circom-regional.org

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