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The documentary films '**Our own private bin laden**' and '**Radiophobia**' sweep the awards at the inaugural European independent Film Festival 2006.

Our Own Private Bin Laden directed by Samira Goetschel and **Radiophobia** directed by Julio Soto shared the prize for Film of the Festival 2006 at The European Independent Film Festival which took place in Paris on the weekend 25th and 26th of March 2006.

Our Own Private Bin Laden took the audience on the very personal voyage made by Ms Goetschel as she traveled the World interviewing politicians, CIA operatives and Islamic scholars trying to understand the creation of the persona of Osama bin Laden as a phenomenon of the interplay between history, politics, global economics and the media. **Our Own Private Bin Laden** also won Best Foreign Documentary Feature.

Radiophobia goes back and visits the scene where, twenty years ago on April 26, 1986, a security test at Chernobyl's nuclear plant in the former Soviet Union, triggered the greatest civilian nuclear catastrophe in history. The film spoke to many of the people involved in the rescue effort and took them back to the city to show how different it is now. **Radiophobia** also won **Best Documentary Feature** and **Best Cinematography**.

Headlining the festival was the UK independent film **Red Mercury** and it picked up both **Best Actress** (Stockard Channing) and **Best Actor** (Pete Postlethwaite) awards. **Gratte Papier** from the talented French director Guillaume Martinez won the Audience Award and **Single Bed** from Greek director Geroge Kouvaras took both **Best Director** and **Best Short Dramatic Film**.

A special commendation from the judging jury went to **Catalin Leescu** who directed the Romanian film **One Shot Wonder**. One of the most commented upon films of the festival was the deeply personal voyage undertaken by the Kenyan filmmaker **Salim Amin** in the documentary about his father called '**Mo and Me**'.

The European Independent Film Festival 2006 screened 30 films from over a dozen countries on the weekend 25th and 26th of March at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris and welcomed several hundred independent filmmakers, distribution company representatives, film sales agents, producers, directors, actors, actresses and talent spotters from around the World.

For more information please contact press@ecufilmfestival.com

Full award information can be found at www.ecufilmfestival.com