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**2009 SA Screen Awards  
Winners Announced at Gala Event at Mercury Cinema**

SA's film community was out in force last night (Thursday February 26) as the winners of the state's premier competition for filmmaking – the **2009 SA Screen Awards (SASAs)** – were announced at a gala event at Adelaide's Mercury Cinema. The Deputy Premier, the Hon. Kevin Foley opened the awards.

Presented by the Media Resource Centre (MRC) as part of the 2009 BigPond Adelaide Film Festival – the winners of the SASAs represent the best of South Australian filmmaking practice across a broad spectrum of 17 genre and craft categories. While the primary focus is on short filmmaking, this year's event saw the inclusion of an award category for 'Best Feature' film – for the very first time.

The inaugural **Best Feature Film award** went to ***The Love Market*** – directed by **Shalom Almond** and **co-produced by Shalom and Judi Oehme**. *The Love Market* tells the story of four hill tribe girls from the mountains of North Vietnam who leave their village to sell embroidery to tourists. The introduction of a feature category has been a huge success with three of the entrants, *Offside* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (both screening at the Mercury Cinema) and *The Love Market* (Palace) – all selling out their respective screenings.

**Best Short Film** went to ***Necessary Games*** – a dance film triptych about our human need to connect with the urgent games we play - created in collaboration with Adelaide's Restless Dance Theatre, which works with young people with & without a disability. Directed by **Sophie Hyde** and co-produced with **Bryan Mason**, *Necessary Games* also picked up the awards for **Best Editing** (Bryan Mason), **Best Production Design** (Gaelle Mellis) & **Best Non-Narrative** film.

Among the nights other winners were: **Vicki Sugars** for **Best Direction** for her film ***Past Midnight*** – which also picked up the **Best Performance** award for its lead, **Maeve Dermody**; **Best Animation** went to ***Rise and Fall*** (directed by Jonathon Daw/produced by Cam Rogers) and ***Kind of Man*** (directed by Kelly Schilling/produced by Sally Clarke) took out **Best Screenplay, Best Drama/Comedy & Best Cinematography**. The full list of winners across every award category can be viewed on Pages 2 & 3 or by visiting [www.mrc.org.au](http://www.mrc.org.au)

Last night's gala event was hosted by Jaimie Leonarder and attended by more than 180 people, including the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Kevin Foley and luminaries of the Adelaide film industry including the CEO of the SA Film Corporation, Richard Harris, Joost den Hartog (Director, the Australian International Documentary Conference), Katrina Sedgwick (Director of the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival) and feature producer Helen Leake.

MRC director, Gail Kovatseff says the night was a fitting tribute to the work of South Australia's filmmaking community. "Our filmmakers work so hard to realise their vision on the screen and we love acknowledging & rewarding their work at the SASAs," says Ms Kovatseff. "The event always sells out and the after party is the best annual celebration of the works of the SA filmmaking community."

**Issued by Foster Hill PR & Marketing for the MRC.  
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**WINNERS of the 2009 South Australian Screen Awards (SASAs) are:**

**FEATURE FILM CATEGORY:**

▪ **Best Feature**

**WINNER:** *The Love Market* – directed by Shalom Almond and co-produced by Shalom Almond and Judi Oehme

Short Synopsis: In the mountains of North Vietnam four hill tribe girls leave their village to sell embroidery to tourists. How will they survive the leap from remote tribal culture to 21<sup>st</sup> Asia?

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**SHORT FILM CATEGORIES:**

▪ **Best Short**

**WINNER:** *Necessary Games* – directed by Sophie Hyde and produced by Bryan Mason & Sophie Hyde

Short Synopsis: A dance film triptych about our human need to connect with the urgent games we play - created in collaboration with Adelaide's Restless Dance Theatre, which works with young people with and without a disability.

▪ **Best Drama/Comedy**

**WINNER:** *Kind of Man* – directed by Kelly Schilling and produced by Sally Clarke

Short Synopsis: A Nigerian man escapes an immigration raid only to end up trapped in the back of a shop with the Australian woman who caused it.

▪ **Best Animation**

**WINNER:** *Rise and Fall* - directed by Jonathan Daw and produced by Cam Rogers

Short Synopsis: What goes up must come down.

▪ **Best Documentary**

**WINNER:** *A Walk Between Two Fires* – directed by Mark Andersson and produced by Katrina Lucas

Short Synopsis: A man seeking redemption for a crime he has committed must face his past and the uncertain road that lies ahead.

▪ **Innovation in Digital Media**

**WINNER:** *10 x 14 Bricks* – directed by Jennifer Lyons-Reid & Carl Kuddell

Short Synopsis: You wouldn't commit a crime ... or would you? Teenage offenders share their stories and crime prevention strategies in 5 powerful films made behind bars.

▪ **Best Non-Narrative** (experimental, music, dance etc)

**WINNER:** *Necessary Games* – directed by Sophie Hyde and produced by Bryan Mason & Sophie Hyde

Short Synopsis: See above

▪ **Best Cinematography**

**WINNER:** *Kind of Man* – DOP: Aaron Gully

Short Synopsis: See above

▪ **Best Composition**

**WINNER:** *The Perils of Flossy* – composer: Tom Harrer

Short Synopsis: Flossy is sad. Her powerful negative thinking attracts adversity into her world. She must make a choice.

... more on Page 3

- **Best Direction**

**WINNER:** *Past Midnight* – director: Vicki Sugars

Short Synopsis: A woman fleeing a flawed relationship shelters in a quiet fishing village. She finds solace there and learns that as night follows day, Mother Nature has a reason for everything.

- **Best Editing**

**WINNER:** *Necessary Games* – editor: Bryan Mason

Short Synopsis: See above

- **Best Performance**

**WINNER:** *Past Midnight* – Maeve Dermody

Short Synopsis: See above

- **Best Production Design**

**WINNER:** *Necessary Games* – production designer: Gaelle Mellis

Short Synopsis: See Above

- **Best Sound Design**

**WINNER:** *The Perils of Flossy* – sound designer: Colin Zammit

Short Synopsis: See above

- **Best Screenplay**

**WINNER:** *Kind of Man* – written by Kelly Schilling

Short Synopsis: See above

- **Office for Youth’s Emerging Young Filmmaker Award**

**WINNER:** Kieren McNamara (*Rock Lobster/Steak Knives*)

Kieren is an up-and-coming comedic actor who has set an excellent standard of work for an actor of his age.

- **Emerging Producer**

**WINNER:** Katrina Lucas & Mark Andersson (*A Walk Between Two Fires*)

*A Walk Between Two Fires* is a very polished documentary, consolidating the promise shown in their previous work. It is the view of the judges that they are ready for a major new step.

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