



NEWS RELEASE

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EALING STUDIOS 'GONE FISHING' WINS PERFORMANCE SHORT FILM COMPETITION 2009

Film and media insurance specialist announces winners at inaugural awards ceremony

Reinforcing its commitment to supporting and nurturing new film-making talent, film and media insurance specialist **Performance** (tel: 0870 703 9378 or visit www.performance-insurance.tv/film) is delighted to reveal that the winning film from its inaugural Performance Short Film Competition was '**Gone Fishing**' (Ealing Studios) directed by Chris Jones and produced by Ivan Francis Clement who were recipients of the £5,000 cash prize on offer. The announcement was made yesterday at a prestigious awards ceremony held at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in London's Piccadilly and hosted by Holby City Executive Producer Tony McHale.

From a shortlist of 12 films, six went on to be screened in the venue's Princess Anne Theatre in front of a 180-strong audience. The finalists and top three places were chosen from over 430 entries by an illustrious panel of judges comprising: Andrea Thornton, Clive Parsons, Liz Smith, Mal Woolford, Tony McHale and Vince Narduzzo.

Commenting on the event, Tony McHale said: *"The awards ceremony was excellently managed and created a very relaxed atmosphere throughout the evening. What was particularly refreshing was the generosity of all the people in competition. They seemed to be genuinely impressed by the other films and appreciated the varying styles. All in all an uplifting evening for film-makers."*

Performance Short Film Competition winner *Gone Fishing* is the touching story of a boy and old man coming to terms with bereavement through their shared love of fishing, and the legend of Goliath – the biggest pike ever caught! Financed by 150 filmmakers, it is 13 minutes of magic that touches and moves the audience.

The story is in part autobiographical – while growing up, director Chris Jones and his friends would often attempt to catch the legendary 'Oscar the pike', a fish that according to local myth terrorized the lake at the end of his road, the aptly named Blue Lagoon. This was the inspiration behind the legend of 'Goliath', the big fish in this even bigger tale. Think 'Jaws' but for kids.

Describing the film, judge and respected shorts director Mal Woolford said: *"Gone Fishing is beautifully assured, emotionally rich and engaging with faultless storytelling. A classic."*

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Dark fairytale **Momster** came second. Directed by Steven Spencer, the film tells the story of a young girl entrapped within a council skyscraper. Her only escape comes from her larger than life imaginary friend. Rocket Post donated the second place prize of £4,500 worth of post-production services.

Third place went to **Hammerhead**. Directed by Sam Donovan, the film is about oddball Boris who tries to reunite his parents on a shark spotting trip off the North Yorkshire coast. Only his biggest enemy is along for the ride.... his mother's girlfriend, Lilah. Only once Boris accepts Lilah can he unite his family in his own unique way – through his obsessive love of sharks.

Filmscape Media donated the third prize of the weekend hire costs of a £60,000 Red One camera shooting package worth up to £1,500.

Performance – part of the Property & Commercial Division of Barbon Insurance Group - offers specialist insurance and risk management solutions to the Film and Media industries. Clients include film producers, freelancers, production and post-production companies, equipment hire businesses and studios.

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Note to editors:

The six films screened at the event were:

- BigBoy_74 Tom Marshall
- Gone Fishing Chris Jones
- Hammerhead Sam Donovan
- How to Pick Up Girls Dan Gitsham
- Momster Steven Spencer
- This Way Up Sarah Punshon

About Barbon Insurance Group

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