



From Holly Hunter to Huga Lilja: Twelve inspiring days at the Stockholm International Film Festival

Even this year the Stockholm International Film Festival attracted a big audience of 130 000 visitors for the entire year. During the 21st festival Gus Van Sant and Stellan Skarsgård slapped each other open heartedly at the Skandia Theater stage, Harriet Andersson got standing ovations during the Award ceremony and Holly Hunter lead the Jury and raised the festival spirit.

180 films from more than 50 countries were shown during 12 intense days filled with Face2Face meetings with more than 100 filmmakers and actors, a record of accredited journalists and industry representatives, outdoor screenings at Norrmalmstorg, Gus Van Sant's photos at Fotografiska and exciting seminars such as Found! Female Directors and Swedes On the Intl Scene.

The Festival invited some of the film world's real aces, such as top director Shane Meadows, Oscar winning editor Bob Murawski and special effects genius Gareth Edwards who each held a master class for Swedish filmmakers. An exclusive master class for chosen filmmakers was also hosted by the recipient of this year's Stockholm Visionary Award, Gus Van Sant. Among the fortunate few was this year's 1 km film winner, Hugo Lilja, whose visionary film knocked the jury.

This year's festival has shown a real width. To both get visits by stars such as Gus Van Sant and Holly Hunter and at the same time be able to inspire young and unestablished filmmakers to take another step in their careers is one of our strongest goals, says festival director Git Scheynius.

This year's most seen films are (in mentioned order) *The Town* by Ben Affleck, *Cemetery Junction* by Ricky Gervais and Steven Merchant, *Winter's Bone* by Debra Granik, *Shanghai* by Mikael Häfström, *Biutiful* by Alejandro González Iñárritu, *Four Lions* by Chris Morris, *Shelter* by Måns Mårild and Björn Stein, *Monsters* by Gareth Edwards, *Heartbeats* by Xavier Dolan and *Im Still Here* by Casey Affleck.

The Stockholm International Film Festival thanks all enthusiastic, committed festival visitors for yet another festival year! The preparations have already begun for next year's Junior festival, April 11th – 16th 2011. The 22nd Stockholm International Film Festival takes place on November 16th – 27th 2011.

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*The Stockholm International Film Festival started in 1990 and is today one of the leading competitive film festival in Europe. The festival takes place every year in November with more than 180 films from more than 50 countries. More than a festival: we organize exclusive screenings and the popular Summer Cinema – an outdoor mini-festival. Every year in April the Stockholm International Film Festival Junior brings the latest films to youngsters between 6 and 16 years of age. **WE LOVE FILM!***