

Den Norske Fredsfilmprisen

The Norwegian Peace Film Award

Jury's Selection of the Winner of the Norwegian Peace Film Award 2006: Substantiation

The jury was impressed by the quality of the ten movies nominated for ***The Norwegian Peace Film Award*** this year. The films present a wide variety of approaches to problems of war and violence, from forced recruitment of child soldiers in El Salvador in the movie "**Voces Inocentes**", to a depth analysis of psychological, political and religious forces in the creation of a suicide bomber in "**Paradise Now**".

Last year's jury noted a lack of gender perspective and women voices. This year we have enjoyed the presence of strong women characters and perspectives in movies such as "**Faith's Corner**" about the structural violence of poverty in South Africa, and, not least, the wonderful Turkish documentary "**The Play**", directed by Pelin Esmer. And we are happy to have her present as one of the guests at the Festival.

Having mentioned these strong candidates, we now turn to the winner of the 2006 Norwegian Peace Film Award. It is a film which in a powerful manner addresses an extreme case of direct, cultural, and structural violence. The subject of the film is the atrocities committed in Rwanda in 1994, and the way in which the UN peacekeeping forces and the international community completely failed to live up to their responsibility to protect the civilian population against the genocide.

By telling the story through the eyes of a young Tutsi girl, this year's winner presents a stark perception of the systematic and racist character of the atrocities and of the cynical lack of political will to intervene. The spectator is left with strong emotions of anger and resentment, at the same time as the movie brings to our critical awareness the very urgent ethical dilemmas related to the use of international protective force in cases of massive suffering.

For these reasons the jury has decided that the Norwegian Peace Film Award 2006 goes to the movie "Shooting Dogs" directed by Michael Caton-Jones .