



Australian Government

SCREEN
AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Media enquiries Victoria Buchan, The Lantern Group
Tel +61 2 9383 4033 | Mobile 0408 114 864 | victoria@lanterngroup.com.au

www.screenaustralia.gov.au

***Franswa Sharl* wins the Crystal Bear for Best Short Film in Generation K Plus at the Berlin International Film Festival**

Monday 22 February 2010

Screen Australia-funded short film ***Franswa Sharl*** has been awarded the prestigious Crystal Bear Award for Best Short Film in Generation K Plus at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival.

Written and directed by **Hannah Hilliard** and produced by **Linda Micsko**, ***Franswa Sharl*** is about a 12-year-old boy who reinvents himself as a French girl while on a family holiday in Fiji so he can enter a competition – much to his father’s dismay. A fictionalised account of a bizarre stunt pulled off by co-writer **Greg Logan**, ***Franswa Sharl*** is framed in the exotic and colourful landscape of a Fijian resort in 1980.

On awarding ***Franswa Sharl***, the Berlin jury said, “We couldn’t help laughing when we saw this charming and funny story based on a true story. Nonstop fun! For a moment we forgot the world around us. The actors were simply great.”

“The audience reaction in Berlin has been amazing – the best response a filmmaker could possibly hope for,” said director Hannah Hilliard.

Callan McAuliffe stars as the young Greg Logan who will go to the most extreme lengths to win the attention of his father. McAuliffe has recently been cast as the lead in the feature ***Flipped***. Other ***Franswa Sharl*** cast include **John Batchelor**, **Diana Glenn** and **Steve Lemarquand**.

Franswa Sharl screened in Berlin’s Generation K Plus section – a special section for children and youths.

In addition, Australian filmmaker **Bryn Chainey** has won the Berlin Today Award in the Talent Short Film Competition of the Berlinale Talent Campus for ***Jonah and the Vicarious Nature of Homesickness***. This live-action and stop-motion short was made by Berlin-based Bryn and produced in co-operation with the Berlin production company, Anna Wendt Filmproduktion.

Franswa Sharl

Production Company: Room Four Film Pty Ltd

Writers: Greg Logan and Hannah Hilliard

Director: Hannah Hilliard

Producer: Linda Micsko

Cast: Callan McAuliffe, John Batchelor, Diana Glenn, Steve Lemarquand, Pippa Grandison, Ivy Latimer

Synopsis: Keeping the position of number one son calls for a certain amount of ingenuity.

Jonah and the Vicarious Nature of Homesickness

Production Company: Anna Wendt Filmproduktion (Germany)

Writer/Director: Bryn Chainey

Producer: Anna Wendt

Cast: Jens Winter

Synopsis: One day Jonah left his family. He gave no explanation and no goodbye, only a telephone number that redirected to an answering machine, before blasting into outer space with his homemade spaceship.

Note: this release was updated at 5pm on 22 February 2010 to include Bryn Chainey.