

Followed by *La Noche de Fuego*

## NEFIAC's closing Gala a hit

- The director of the Festival, Jose Torrealba, gave an emotional closing speech at the closure event in the Avon Cinema
- Winning films: *El último verano de La Boyita (Last Summer of La Boyita)*, *El Informe Toledo (The Toledo Report)* and *Ojos de Resaca (Undertow Eyes)*
- As a closing event, NEFIAC joined *La Noche de Fuego* of Waterfire Providence

**(Providence, September 2010)** After a week of emotion, entertainment and cinematographic culture, this Saturday ended the New England Festival of Ibero-American Cinema (NEFIAC), with the award ceremony that recognized the films selected by the jury for the “Best Emerging Filmmaker”, “Best Documentary” and “Best Short Film” categories.

Among the selection criteria for the winner, the films had to be able to engage ethically an issue of our time; have an evident commitment to creativity and innovation in the film language; and, above all, successfully in depict and promote human dignity and the values that will sustain us into the future.

The “Best Emerging Director” award was presented to Julia Solomonoff, director of the Argentinian film *El Último Verano de La Boyita (Last Summer of La Boyita, www.laboyitafilm.com)*. The jury presided by Ann Marie Stock wrote in their statement: “we want to commend Solomonoff for effectively incorporating a variety of elements to create an authentic audiovisual language; the compelling script, effective editing, and successful directing of the young protagonists yield an innovative—and eminently humane—film. This work represents the transition from childhood to adolescence in a new and poignant way, while emphasizing our potential for understanding and embracing difference”.

But the excellent quality of the films in competition prompted the jury to make an exception and award two special mentions, as explained in its statement:

“For the first of its two mentions, the jury has selected *Contracorriente, ( Undertow)* by Javier Fuentes-Leon. The jury praises the director of this film for his mastery of the elements key to cinematic representation, and also because of his courage in framing love and solidarity in such a way as to address discrimination based on sexual orientation, thereby introducing a theme little discussed in Latin American film”.

“For the second of its nominations, the jury has selected *Mal Día para Pescar (Bad Day to Go Fishing)*, by Álvaro Brechner. The jury lauds the magisterial way in which Brechner creates an entire world on screen. The motivations of a community and the relationships of individuals are depicted in a precise locale, and yet they transcend the regional context with their universal.”

For the “Best Documentary” award, the jury presided by Michelle LeBrun selected the Mexican film *El Informe Toledo (The Toledo Report, [www.elinformetoledo.com](http://www.elinformetoledo.com))*, by Albino Álvarez, who “truly captured the soul and life of a complicated artist and at the same time captured the truth of an inspired and brokenhearted artist. That is honesty”.

The **Tini Award** was presented to the “Best Short Film” to the Brazilian production *Ojos de Resaca (Undertow Eyes)*, by Petra Costa “For an excellent use of the audiovisual language that immerses the audience into an intimate atmosphere with an unmatched visual richness”.

After the award ceremony and an emotional speech by NEFIAC’s director, José Torrealba in which he thanked the New England community for all their support and the warm welcome given to the Festival’s first edition and committed to meet again in the second edition of the New England Festival of Ibero-American Cinema on October 2011.

As a closing act, the comedy *El Cuerno de la Abundancia” (Horn of Plenty)*, a Cuba-Spain co-production by director Juan Carlos Tabío, captivated the audience as a fitting last act of NEFIAC at the Avon Cinema.

But the night didn’t end there: NEFIAC was present in Waterfire Providence’s *La noche de fuego 2010*, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month. It was a wonderful party of multi-sensory stimulation that involves movement, participation and surprise, where fire and water mesmerized the audience with music and movement.