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The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association

Contact: press@wafca.com, Tim Gordon 202-374-3305

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D.C. Wants to Have a Talk About the Birds and the Boys ***"Boyhood" and "Birdman" Dominate This Year's Awards***

Washington, D.C. — 2014 has gone to the birds! "Birdman," that is. Taking home five awards, "Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)" was the big winner with The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association (WAFCA) this morning. The organization announced its top picks for the year, also lavishing praise on the beloved indie hit, "Boyhood," which won the coveted "Best Film" spot.

"Boyhood," a coming-of-age story filmed over a dozen, consecutive years, also won for Best Director (Richard Linklater), Best Supporting Actress (Patricia Arquette), and Best Youth Performance by Ellar Coltrane, the young boy who literally becomes a man before audiences' eyes.

"Birdman," directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu, and marking the explosive return of '80s star Michael Keaton (winner of this year's Best Actor award), also snatched Best Acting Ensemble, Best Original Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Editing. The film, mirroring the life of the award-winning lead actor, is about a washed-up artist hoping to regain some of his former glory.

WAFCA awarded Best Actress to Julianne Moore for her turn as a woman slowly disintegrating under the effects of Alzheimer's disease in "Still Alice." Best Supporting Actor went to J.K. Simmons for "Whiplash," the story of a musical prodigy whose mentor will stop at nothing to make him the best he can be.

Perhaps the least surprising award of the morning came in the Best Animated Feature category, with the universally praised "The LEGO Movie" taking the prize. "Life Itself," about the life and career of the late dean of film criticism, Roger Ebert — and a film close to many of the WAFCA voters' hearts — won for Best Documentary. "Force Majeure," a Swedish film about a family confronting their relationship demons while on a skiing holiday, won for Best Foreign Language Film.

Best Adapted Screenplay went to Gillian Flynn, the author and screenwriter of the wildly popular David Fincher crime drama, "Gone Girl." Mica Levi won Best Original Score for her creepy accompaniment to the mind-bending Scarlett Johansson sci-fi indie, "Under the Skin." Best Art Design went to the marvelous Wes Anderson confection, "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of Washington, DC, given each year in honor of one of WAFCA's cherished late members, went to the Marvel blockbuster, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association comprises 55 DC-VA-MD-based film critics from television, radio, print and the Internet. Voting was conducted from December 5-7, 2014.

THE 2014 WAFCA AWARD WINNERS:

Best Film:

Boyhood

Best Director:

Richard Linklater (Boyhood)

Best Actor:

Michael Keaton (Birdman or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*)

Best Actress:

Julianne Moore (Still Alice)

Best Supporting Actor:

J.K. Simmons (Whiplash)

Best Supporting Actress:

Patricia Arquette (Boyhood)

Best Acting Ensemble:

Birdman or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*

Best Youth Performance:

Ellar Coltrane (Boyhood)

Best Adapted Screenplay:

Gillian Flynn (Gone Girl)

Best Original Screenplay:

Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, Jr., Armando Bo (Birdman or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*)

Best Animated Feature:

The LEGO Movie

Best Documentary:

Life Itself

Best Foreign Language Film:

Force Majeure

Best Art Direction:

Production Designer: Adam Stockhausen, Set Decorator: Anna Pinnock (The Grand Budapest Hotel)

Best Cinematography:

Emmanuel Lubezki, ASC, AMC (Birdman or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*)

Best Editing:

Douglas Crise, Stephen Mirrione, ACE (Birdman or *(The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)*)

Best Original Score:

Mica Levi (Under the Skin)

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of Washington, DC:

Captain America: The Winter Soldier

The 2014 WAFCA AWARD NOMINEES WERE:

Best Film:

Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*)
Boyhood
Gone Girl
Selma
Whiplash

Best Director:

Damien Chazelle (Whiplash)
Ava DuVernay (Selma)
David Fincher (Gone Girl)
Alejandro G. Iñárritu (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Richard Linklater (Boyhood)

Best Actor:

Benedict Cumberbatch (The Imitation Game)
Oscar Isaac (A Most Violent Year)
Michael Keaton (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
David Oyelowo (Selma)
Eddie Redmayne (The Theory of Everything)

Best Actress:

Scarlett Johansson (Under the Skin)
Felicity Jones (The Theory of Everything)
Julianne Moore (Still Alice)
Rosamund Pike (Gone Girl)
Reese Witherspoon (Wild)

Best Supporting Actor:

Ethan Hawke (Boyhood)
Edward Norton (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Mark Ruffalo (Foxcatcher)
Andy Serkis (Dawn of the Planet of the Apes)
J.K. Simmons (Whiplash)

Best Supporting Actress:

Patricia Arquette (Boyhood)
Jessica Chastain (A Most Violent Year)
Laura Dern (Wild)
Emma Stone (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Tilda Swinton (Snowpiercer)

Best Acting Ensemble:

Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*)
Boyhood
The Grand Budapest Hotel
Into the Woods
Selma

Best Youth Performance:

Ellar Coltrane (Boyhood)
Mackenzie Foy (Interstellar)
Jaeden Lieberher (St. Vincent)
Tony Revolori (The Grand Budapest Hotel)
Noah Wiseman (The Babadook)

Best Adapted Screenplay:

Gillian Flynn (Gone Girl)
Graham Moore (The Imitation Game)
Paul Thomas Anderson (Inherent Vice)
Anthony McCarten (The Theory of Everything)
Nick Hornby (Wild)

Best Original Screenplay:

Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris, Jr., Armando Bo (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Richard Linklater (Boyhood)
Wes Anderson (The Grand Budapest Hotel)
Phil Lord & Christopher Miller (The LEGO Movie)
Damien Chazelle (Whiplash)

Best Animated Feature:

Big Hero 6
The Book of Life
The Boxtrolls
How to Train Your Dragon 2
The LEGO Movie

Best Documentary:

Citizenfour
Jodorowsky's Dune
Last Days in Vietnam
Life Itself
The Overnighters

Best Foreign Language Film:

Force Majeure
Ida
Mommy
Two Days, One Night
Wild Tales

Best Art Direction:

Production Designer: Kevin Thompson, Set Decorator: George DeTitta Jr., SDSA (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Production Designer: Adam Stockhausen, Set Decorator: Anna Pinnock (The Grand Budapest Hotel)
Production Designer: Nathan Crowley, Set Decorator: Gary Fettis (Interstellar)
Production Designer: Dennis Gassner, Set Decorator: Anna Pinnock (Into the Woods)
Production Designer: Ondrej Nekvasil, Set Decorator: Beatrice Brentnerova (Snowpiercer)

Best Cinematography:

Emmanuel Lubezki, ASC, AMC (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Robert Yeoman, ASC (The Grand Budapest Hotel)
Hoyte Van Hoytema, FSF, NSC (Interstellar)
Roger Deakins, ASC, BSC (Unbroken)
Daniel Landin, BSC (Under the Skin)

Best Editing:

Douglas Crise, Stephen Mirrione, ACE (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Sandra Adair, ACE (Boyhood)
Kirk Baxter, ACE (Gone Girl)
Lee Smith, ACE (Interstellar)
Tom Cross (Whiplash)

Best Original Score:

Antonio Sanchez (Birdman or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*))
Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross (Gone Girl)
Hans Zimmer (Interstellar)
Jóhann Jóhannsson (The Theory of Everything)
Mica Levi (Under the Skin)

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of Washington, DC:

Anita
Captain America: The Winter Soldier
Kill the Messenger
Selma
X-Men: Days of Future Past