



## PRESS RELEASE

Barcelona, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Barcelona FICMA's 24<sup>th</sup> edition closes at CosmoCaixa with 3 generations of environmental activists on stage; Unai Canela, Tippi Degré, the Mantello brothers and Carol Buckley – this one Special Golden Sun of the Festival - with great audience success and it consolidates itself as the biggest environmental film festival in the world.**

"GREED, A FATAL DESIRE" from Germany and "SPARKLINGS RIVERS" from Estonia, Golden Suns for Best Long Documentary and Short Film respectively.

At the Closing Ceremony presented by the actress **Mabel Martí** and the journalist **Cori Calero**, the 24<sup>th</sup> International Environmental Film Festival of Barcelona finished another edition getting **#InItsSkin** of living beings and the planet, of more than 15,000 spectators that filled Cinemas Girona and Zumzeig and the auditoriums of the CosmoCaixa and the UPF, UB and Blanquerna Universities.

The magic of cinema and the long history of FICMA, where internationally recognized names of the film industry and the environment have visited us: **Daryl Hannah and Martin Sheen, Jane Goodall, Goldie Hawn and Yann Arthus Bertrand**, let us in this edition bring together 3 generations of environmental activists and defenders of life and nature in the same scenario: **Carol Buckley** (winner in this edition of **FICMA's 2017 Special Golden Sun** and character of the film "**Unchained**") , **Tippi Degré** (also known as "the girl from the jungle" who reminds us a lot to the character of Moogly), **Unai Canela** (character of the wonderful winning documentary of 2017 Petit FICMA Golden Sun) "**Looking for the Wild**" and the brothers **Jean-Jacques and François Mantello**, who together with **Jean-Michel Cousteau and Arnold Schwarzenegger** directed and produced FICMA's spectacular opening film, on November 2 at the French Institute: "**The Wonders of the Sea 3D**".

These five special guests perfectly symbolize the spirit and the message that the festival wants to convey to the public for more than two decades through cinema: **"to know to protect our natural and social environment."**

This year's slogan, **IN ITS SKIN and the 142 scheduled films** had as main objective to enhance and develop even more in people, the increase of "empathy" with living beings.

**The Special Golden Sun of FICMA 2017, Carol Buckley**, is a precursor of EAI (Elephant Aid International) and works to improve the welfare of captive elephants in Nepal, showing - with gentle persuasion and example - that there is a "better way" to treat elephants in captivity. Carol's approach encourages cooperation rather than confrontation between the mahouts and their elephants, for them essential as they are the grounding of their subsistence in a habitat that offers no other options.

Carol promotes cooperation between human beings and elephants: a "better way", contrary to domination and cruelty.

The young **Unai Canela** was 4 years old when he began with his father - the photographer and filmmaker Andoni Canela - to spot grizzly bears in the Vall d'Aran. When he was 7 he ran to school, two kilometers away from his house. And when he was 9 he traveled seven continents in 15 months in the search of seven wild animals, a great adventure that gave birth to the documentary, '**Looking for the Wild**', winner of **Petit FICMA 2017 Golden Sun**.



**The Jury** made of Suzzane Harle, Gabriel Jaraba, José Cohen, Asué Mbomío, Leonardo Anselmi, Mertxe Larumbe, Denis Delestrac, Johana Tonini, Gonçal Luna, Danna García, Lluís Valentí and Cilia Willem had an arduous debate to choose the winners between the 47 films that made up the Official Selection of the Festival Contest.

**FICMA's Golden Suns**, the highest award of the Festival go to:

- **GREED, A FATAL DESIRE** (GERMANY) by Jörg Seibold, as Best Documentary Feature Film
  - **SPARKLINGS RIVERS** (ESTONIA) by Märten Vaher and Anna Gavrons, as Best Documentary Short Film.
  - **EL HOMBRE DE AGUA DULCE** (USA / SPAIN) by Alvaro Ron as Best Fiction Short Film
  - **DINS DE LA MATEIXA NAU** (SPAIN) by Rudy Gnutti, as Best Catalan Documentary.
  - **LOOKING FOR THE WILD** (SPAIN) by Andoni Canela as PetitFICMA Award
  - **BEYOND FORDLANDIA** (USA) by Marcos Colon, as WWF Award for Best Awareness Documentary.
  - **CAROL BUCKLEY** (USA) Special Golden Sun
- (More information, synopsis, fact sheets of the awarded films, you can find them in the Official Section at our website: <http://www.ficma.com>)

By its side, **Festival Director Jaume Gil** summarizes: *"This has been a very special edition, the slogan/hashtag #InItsSkin, we thought it was very appropriate to generate more empathy with other living beings. Without imagining it, the festival clashed with a social and political moment in the country which bolstered the importance of culture and cultural events to provoke positive changes that FICMA has always claimed and defended since its beginnings. We believe that people understood it; the response of the public in the Festival and their participation has been more than positive and has been increasing! That is why we feel very, very satisfied"*.

This edition began at the French Institute of Barcelona with the 3D film projection **"The Wonders of the Sea 3D"** directed by Jean Michel Cousteau and Jean Jacques Mantello, and finished at CosmoCaixa in Barcelona with the documentary **"Unchained"** directed by Alex Rivera (all there at the festival) after 9 intense days of screenings, workshops and conferences that are the spearhead of FICMA that stays alive throughout the year.

*"We close 24 years of beaten path in the cinema and the environment in Barcelona and in the world but many doors will open up to reach 25! How?, through our website, reaching all schools with online projections through **"Every Classroom, a Cinema"**, with the travelling exhibitions that we will carry out in **Spain and Mexico together with the UN Environment** and as of April, jointly with the **Organization of American States (OAS)** we will bring the best of FICMA 2017 to all countries of America during 2018. For all these reasons, **"I always say that FICMA is much more than just a Film Festival, it is a public service that entertains and educates, which sensitizes and generates awareness,"** says **Claudio Lauria, President and Founder** of the oldest festival in the world of its genre.*

The 24th International Environmental Film Festival has received the sponsorship of Ecoembes, Agbar and La Caixa Foundation and the collaboration of public entities such as the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Barcelona City Council and the Diputació de Barcelona, among others.

**Más información:** [press@ficma.com](mailto:press@ficma.com)

**Tel:** 682281672

Adjuntamos link de descarga de fotos: <https://we.tl/LQP2pDxp3m>

Adjuntamos link de descarga de trailers y spot del FICMA: <https://we.tl/UYyeUd9rsm>