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Juanita Wilson wins the FACE prize at the Istanbul Film Festival for "As if I'm Not There" – Jury Special Mention goes to Sedat Yilmaz for "Press"

Istanbul, 16.04.2011 – Juanita Wilson today received the 5th Film Award of the Council of Europe (FACE) for her film "As if I'm Not There", during the closing ceremony of the 30th international film festival in Istanbul. The award was presented to the winner by Ambassador Daryal Batibay, Chairman Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe.

The decision of the Human Rights Jury was announced by its President Scandar Copti, winner of FACE in 2010 for "Ajami": "As if I'm Not There' is a film which depicts with great tact, decency and sensitivity the suffering of a woman victim of rape during the war in Bosnia. At the deepest of tragedy, the film leaves an open window on hope and reminds us that women are the future of mankind" the Jury said. Jury members found "Press" of Sedat Yilmaz worthy of a Special Mention "for its message upholding freedom of expression and freedom of information, which constitute the very basis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law". This year, 10 films were entered in the human rights section (*).

The prize awarded to Juanita Wilson consists of a bronze sculpture and a cash prize of 10 000 euros, partly financed by Eurimages, the Council of Europe's fund for the co-production, distribution and exhibition of European cinematographic works.

The decision to create the FACE award reflects the Council of Europe's commitment to both cinema and cultural diversity, and is recognition of the contribution that the world of cinema can make in developing human rights worldwide.

The FACE award is an annual collaboration between the Council of Europe and the International Istanbul Film Festival.

(*) Further information is available at www.coe.int or www.iksv.org/film

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