

Alabama

Sidewalk Film Festival announces 2016 winners; here's the list

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"Gip," a documentary about Bessemer bluesman Henry "Gip" Gipson and his legendary juke joint "Gip's Place," was one of the big winners at Birmingham's 18th annual Sidewalk Film Festival, which wrapped up Sunday night.

The documentary by director Patrick Sheehan and producer Melanie Jeffcoat won the jury award for best Alabama film and received an audience choice award for best documentary feature.

Another made-in-Alabama film, "Service to Man," was the audience choice winner for best narrative feature. A drama about two medical students who forge friendships and overcome prejudices in Deep South in the late 1960s, "Service to Man" was shot primarily in Tuscaloosa.

"Donald Cried," a dark comedy about the awkward and unexpected reunion of two long-lost friends, won the jury award for best narrative feature, while "Syl Johnson: Any Way the Wind Blows," the story of overlooked blues and soul singer Syl Johnson, won the jury prize for best documentary.

The 2016 Sidewalk Film Festival screened about 250 features, documentaries and short films in seven theaters and venues in the downtown Birmingham Theatre District -- including the newly restored 102-year-old Lyric Theatre, which was a Sidewalk screening venue for the first time.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS

Best Narrative Feature: "Service to Man"

Best Documentary Feature: "Gip"

Best Narrative Short: "Madame Black"

Best Documentary Short: "Pickle"

Best Alabama Film: "First Lady of the Revolution"

Best SHOUT Narrative Feature: "Miles"

Best SHOUT Documentary Feature: "Suited"

Best SHOUT Short: "The Escape Hatch"

UPDATED at 7:40 a.m. CDT on Monday, Aug. 29, 2016, to add Sidewalk Programmers Award and SHOUT Programmers Award winners.