

News from the Hardacre Film and Cinema Festival (Tipton, Iowa)  
www.hardacrefilmfestival.com

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## Hardacre Film and Cinema Festival Announces Award-Winning Films

TIPTON, IA – The jury of the Hardacre Film and Cinema Festival has announced its award-winning films in seven categories for the 2009 festival. The festival will take place at the historic Hardacre Theater in Tipton Aug. 7 and 8.

“In addition to our award winners, we chose to give runner-up awards this year in each category, based on the number of votes they received from our 10-person jury,” said Will Valet, festival director. “We have some exceptional films this year, and we’re proud to recognize twice as many with our jury awards.”

The award-winning films are:

### **Best Narrative Feature**

WINNER – *Sita Sings the Blues*, by director Nina Paley. Sita is a goddess separated from her beloved lord and husband, Rama. Nina is an animator whose husband moves to India, then dumps her by e-mail. Three hilarious shadow puppets narrate both ancient tragedy and modern comedy in this beautifully animated interpretation of the Indian epic *Ramayana*. Set to the 1920s jazz vocals of Annette Hanshaw, this film earns its tagline as “the Greatest Break-Up Story Ever Told.”

RUNNER-UP – *Breaking Upwards*, by director Daryl Wein. After four years together, a young New York couple has grown stifled. Desperate to escape their ennui, but fearful of life apart, they decide to intricately strategize their own breakup. The film blurs the line between documentary and narrative by casting real-life couple (and filmmakers) Daryl Wein and Zoe Lister-Jones as themselves.

### **Best Documentary**

WINNER – *Pride of Lions*, by directors John Woehrle and Louise Woehrle. This documentary presents Sierra Leone in a new light—the story of what it means for a country and its people brutalized by an 11-year civil war to move beyond their scars. Through personal stories of human suffering, loss, and recovery, the Sierra Leoneans reveal universal truths about the strength of the human spirit and the power of forgiveness to move us forward. Witnessing their ability to overcome inconceivable human atrocities and reclaim their legacy is inspirational for most. For the two Americans in the story, it is life-changing.

RUNNER-UP – *Out in the Silence*, by directors Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson. The announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson’s wedding to another man in his small hometown newspaper leads to a firestorm of controversy and a plea for help from the mother of a gay teen being tormented at school. A gripping and uplifting journey through love, hate and change in the American heartland.

### **Best Short Film**

WINNER – *Hector Corp.*, by director Gary H. Lee. A timely, black comic thriller about layoffs and economic horrors. The Hector Corporation must take extreme measures to manage its employees— with unexpected executioners.

RUNNER-UP – *Bathtub to Happiness*, by directors Norbert and Nadine Keil. Victor and Marie have never met before tonight. But following several coincidences, they find themselves in the same enchanted, traveling bathtub. Did we mention they’re not wearing clothes?

### **Best Student Film**

WINNER – *The Guy Chronicles*, by director Ryan Kohler. After a failed marriage and writing career in the big city, 28-year-old Guy Aston is back in his hometown and soon finds himself fighting to get out of his old shoes once again. Guy’s attempt at securing a backup job at the local newspaper proves to be difficult as he eventually ends up on a wild goose chase with old pals.

RUNNER-UP – *Le Paradis de L’imbecile* (“A Fool’s Paradise”), by director Patrick Griffin. Joe can’t help but delve into film-fueled fantasies to liven up his dull life. But a breakup with his girlfriend forces him to choose between imagination and reality.

### **Best Animated Film**

WINNER – *I am so proud of you*, by director Don Hertzfeldt. Cult animator Don Hertzfeldt’s sequel to *Everything will be ok* (Hardacre Best Animated Film winner, 2007) follows the continuing struggle of Bill, whose recovery from mental illness is overshadowed by dark family secrets.

RUNNER-UP – *Repaired?*, by director Seung-Hoo Ihm. Two aliens try to fix their UFO after crashing from the moon to the earth, but what to do with that big red button? Go by the book, or solve by instinct?

### **Best Experimental Film**

WINNER – *Ghost Conversations*, by director Jeremy Bessoff. Heartbreak and loss becomes a character itself as a woman pines for the return of her husband lost somewhere in World War II. This dream conjures the ghost of a Flying Ace and traps him between two inescapable landscapes—the desolation of war and the safety of domesticity. The drama is enacted between a life-sized marionette and a model airplane.

RUNNER-UP – *Paradoxes and Oxymorons*, by director Kate Raney. This animated interpretation of John Ashbery’s poem, “Paradoxes and Oxymorons,” features narration by DJ Spooky and offers a meditation on shapes, lines and language.

### **Best Iowa Filmmaker**

WINNER (tie) – *Horizons*, by director Jordan Crabtree. An apathetic man is shocked into life after a friend's life-changing decision.

WINNER (tie) – *Contrails*, by directors James Niebuhr and Andy Richards. Through innovation and imagination, a young man pursues his unlikely dream of flight. Will his dream come true, or will he remain grounded for life?

The Hardacre also gives an Audience Award, which will be voted on by the audience and announced at the conclusion of the festival Saturday, Aug. 8.

## SIDEBAR

Hardacre Film and Cinema Festival  
Friday-Saturday, Aug. 7 and 8  
Hardacre Theater  
112 E 5th St.  
Tipton, Iowa

Admission to any of the Hardacre's three programs, Opening Night, Saturday Day or Closing Night, is \$6 each. An all-festival pass can be purchased for \$15. Films on Friday begin at 6 p.m. On Saturday, screenings will run all day; from 9 a.m. through 11 p.m.

For a full schedule or more information about the Hardacre Film and Cinema festival, go to [www.hardacrefilmfestival.com](http://www.hardacrefilmfestival.com).

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