IIFF's last day saw many people wishing they had started attending earlier... ICAPA Trust kept up the momentum with their running of all the venues for all five days of the 20th edition of the International Images Film Festival for Women 2023. Today brought in the climax of this wonderful 5 day event with the closing ceremony and the announcement of the nominees and winning films. The closing ceremony, held at a US Embassy residence in Chisipite, was opened by the IIFF MCs, Ms CHARMMAINE MUJERI and Mr ANEUNHU GWATIDZO who invited the US EMBASSY's Deputy Head of Mission, Mr BENJAMIN I PIERCE to say a few words. Mr PIERCE thanked the ICAPA Trust's Director, Ms TSITSI DANGAREMBGA, recognizing her tireless efforts, despite many challenges and a busy calendar, to keep the festival running.

The MCs and Festival Manager, Ms TAFADZWA CHOCHOVUVO, thanked all parties involved in contributing to the success of IIFF which was funded by the OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION and the CULTURE FUND which is supported by the EUROPEAN UNION. The embassies of SPAIN, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA and CHILE as well as the INSTITUT FRANÇAIS (French Institute) all supported the festival with films and, in the case of the Australian and Netherlands Embassies, receptions after the films. IIFF also thanked the INTERNATIONALES FRAUENFILMFESTIVAL DORTMUND + KÖLN, it's partner festival for access to great films.
Guests at the closing then sat down to watch a riveting period drama ‘The Last Queen’ set in Algeria in a time of revolt against the tyranny of Spain. It was very soon after that when, finally, the moment of truth arrived and the nominees and winners were announced by IIFF jury president, Ms SOUAD HOUSSIN.

Awards were announced by the MCs and presented by some of the eminent guests present from the filmmaking fraternity - or sorority in this case – before an audience of diplomats and creatives. The jury’s decision went as follows:

**MAIN COMPETITION**

All the films in the categories were deemed to be good contenders by the main jury

**BEST SCRIPT - Nominees**
BEFORE NOW & THEN by KAMILA ANDANI - INDONESIA
MY DONKEY, MY LOVE & I by CAROLINE VIGNAL- FRANCE,
THE LAST QUEEN by ADILA BENDIMERAD & DAMIEN OUNOURI - ALGERIA

Winner - THE LAST QUEEN written by ADILA BENDIMERAD and DAMIEN OUNOURI

**BEST ACTRESS - Nominees**
HAPPY SALMA- BEFORE NOW AND THEN
ZELDA SAMSON - DALVA
BINETE UNDONQUE - NOME

Winner - BINETE UNDONQUE in NOME

**BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY - Nominees**
BEFORE NOW & THEN - INDONESIA
DALVA - FRANCE, BELGIUM
THE LAST QUEEN – ALGERIA

Winner THE LAST QUEEN - cinematography by SHADI CHAABAN

**BEST DEPICTION OF A WOMAN - Nominees**
BEFORE NOW & THEN by KAMILA ANDANI - INDONESIA
DALVA by EMMANUELLE NICOT - FRANCE, BELGIUM
NOME by SANA NA N’HANDA - GUINEA BISSAU, FRANCE, PORTUGAL, ANGOLA

WINNER - NOME - directed by SANA NA N’HADA
BEST DIRECTOR -
BEFORE NOW & THEN by KAMILA ANDANI - INDONESIA
DALVA by EMMANUELLE NICOT - FRANCE, BELGIUM
THE LAST QUEEN - ADILA BENDIMERAD and DAMIEN OUNOURI - ALGERIA

WINNER - THE LAST QUEEN - ADILA BENDIMERAD and DAMIEN OUNOURI

BEST FILM - Nominees
THE LAST QUEEN – ALGERIA
BEFORE NOW & THEN – INDONESIA
NOME - GUINEA BISSAU, FRANCE, PORTUGAL, ANGOLA

WINNER - BEFORE, NOW and THEN produced by GITA FARA, IFA ISFANSYAH and SUMA ADIWANITA - INDONESIA

AUDIENCE PRIZE - Nominees
ANATOMY OF TIME by JAKRAWAL NILTHAMRONG
DALVA by EMMANUELLE NICOT
NOME by SANA NA N'HADA

WINNER - NOME
‘NOME by director SANA NA N'HADA told a beautiful and complex story of war and liberation including its effect on women, portrayed brilliantly by actress binete undoque as nambu’

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION - Nominees
SEVEN WINTERS IN TEHRAN by STEFFI NIERDERZOLL - IRAN
THE YELLOW CEILING by ISABEL COIXET - SPAIN
WRITING WITH FIRE by RINTU THOMAS and SUSHMIT GOSH – INDIA

WINNER - SEVEN WINTERS IN TEHRAN DIRECTED by STEFFI NIERDERZOLL
The film portrays a very strong women fighting against oppressive laws and repressive system, and the film does show that in a psychologically and visually captivating way, even though there is serious censorship in iran, they managed to shoot the film using hidden cameras, the film will influence women all over the world to fight for their rights and freedoms

SHORT FILM COMPETITION - Nominees
THE LAST RANGER by CINDY LEE –SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED STATES
ENTIRETY: ONE’S FULFILLMENT by SUMEDH MADHUKAR JADHAV -INDIA
AT AGE 45- by PRUNUELLE SAKOFIO -CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

WINNER - THE LAST RANGER DIRECTED by CINDY LEE
a compelling drama with strong women characters, important social, and conservation messages. an excellent script, combined with solid camera work and brilliant performances that tells the story of a young girl from a difficult background who was encouraged to break out of her social frameworks and just “be wild” this film demonstrates good short film narrative skills as well as following the journey of two women on a path to reach their dreams
ZIMBABWEAN FICTION FILM COMPETITION
Nominees (only two were considered worthy of a nomination)
THE OUTSIDER by  DERICK NZIYAKWI
DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL by  DERICK MANIECA

WINNER - DAUGHTER OF THE SOIL directed by DERICK MANIECA
the overall concept and film were exceptional. a brave, experimental approach on the theme of representing women. excellent cinematography, editing and soundtrack.

WORLD VIEW COMPETITION
BORGA by YORK-FABIAN RAABE - GERMANY
SIRA by APOLLINE TRAORE – SENEGAL, FRANCE, BURKINA FASO,
WOMEN OF RWANDA by  SOPHIE KING – RWANDA, GERMANY

WINNER - SIRA produced by DENIS COUGNAD
the film takes us into the experiences of women in an islamic extremist world very foreign to our world, and the film brought this to life in a vivid cinematic way

NEW MAN COMPETITION - Nominees
A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING by MARY MAZZIO - USA
BORGA by YORK-FABIAN RAABE - GERMANY
NOME by SANA NA N’HADA - GUINEA BISSAU, FRANCE, PORTUGAL, ANGOLA

THE WINNER IS BORGA directed by YORK-FABIAN RAABE
the main male character represents a model of a new man who treats the women in his life with respect and dignity. in addition, he spends the entire film trying to help his mother’s dream of uplifting the family and he achieves that.

By Sylvia Vassilatos