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SXSW: Audience Award Winners Announced

10:59 AM PDT 3/15/2014 by Gregg Kilday

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"Cesar Chavez"

Shawn Christensen's "Before I Disappear" takes the prize in the narrative feature competition, whille Diego Luna's "Cesar Chavez" is the favorite in the Spotlight sidebar.

Shawn Christensen's *Before I Disappear* was named the audience award winner in the narrative feature competition at the South by Southwest Film Festival. Based on Christensen's Oscar-winning 2012 short film *Curfew*, *Disappear* stars the writer-director as a man, hitting a low point, who is asked to look after his 11-year-old niece.

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In the documentary feature competition, the audience award winner, also announced today, was **Diana Whitten**'s *Vessel*, a portrait of abortion activist **Rebecca Gomperts**.

Diego Luna's *Cesar Chavez*, a drama about the famed labor organizer, which Lionsgate and its Pantelion Films are releasing theatrically March 28, took the audience award in the narrative spotlight category.

The audience awards follow the previously announced 2014 Jury Awards, which included Grand Jury winners **Sarah-Violet Bliss** and **Charles Rogers**' *Fort Tilden* for narrative feature, and **Margaret Brown**'s *The Great Invisible* for documentary feature.

Over the course of nine days, the 2014 SXSW Film Festival is screening a total of 133 features and 113 shorts. A complete list of the audience award winners follows.

2014 SXSW Film Festival Audience Award Winners:

NARRATIVE FEATURE COMPETITION

Audience Award Winner: *Before I Disappear*

Director: Shawn Christensen

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE COMPETITION

Audience Award Winner: *Vessel*

Director: Diana Whitten

DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT

Audience Award Winner: *DamNation*

Directors: Ben Knight and Travis Rummel

NARRATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Audience Award Winner: *Cesar Chavez*

Director: Diego Luna

VISIONS

Audience Award Winner: *Yakona*

Directors: Anlo Sepulveda and Paul Collins

MIDNIGHTERS

Audience Award Winner: *Exists*

Director: Eduardo Sánchez

EPISODIC

Audience Award Winner:*Silicon Valley*

Director: Mike Judge

SXGLOBAL

Audience Award Winner: *The Special Need*

Director: Carlo Zoratti

FESTIVAL FAVORITES

Audience Award Winner: *The Case Against 8*

Directors: Ben Cotner and Ryan White

SXSW Film Design Awards

EXCELLENCE IN POSTER DESIGN

Audience Award Winner: *Big Significant Things*

Designer: Corey Holms

EXCELLENCE IN TITLE DESIGN

Audience Award Winner: *True Detective*

Designer: Patrick Clair for Elastic

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