

Summary: Films from the North 2009



SUMMARY FILMS FROM THE NORTH 2009

The sidebar Films from the North (FFN) had its ninth run at the Tromsø International Film Festival 2009, January 13-18. FFN's goal is to screen the best of short and documentary films from the Barents region, and also be the most important meeting place for the regional film industry. Visited by more industry members from the North than ever before, with several seminars aimed at filmmakers on side of the regular audiences seeing films in the program, Tromsø once again experienced a bustling week in the middle of the polar winter.

KEY NUMBERS

44 films were screened in the program

28 of the directors were present in Tromsø

3618 audiences attended the screenings



Audiences lining up outside Verdensteatret.

FILMS

The Films from the North program were also this year organized into different sections where films could be screened in and out of competition. The program consisted of the following sections:

- **Shorts and Docs in Competition**
- **Polar Focus**
- **Young Directors/Student Films**
- **Special Screenings**



Stills from *Lilliseed* (*Lille frø*) and *The End of the World Was Here*.

Polar Focus: Still from *On the Ice*

FILMS FROM THE NORTH – OPENING NIGHT

The official opening of Films from the North took place on the first day of the festival. Grants of NOK 300 000 were awarded by the North Norwegian Film Centre to three short film projects in development. Pia Svensgaard from Troms County made the official opening speech and the four films that received production support at the opening in 2008 were screened.



Mellemygd choir at the opening



Director/actress Maria Bock receives production support.

SEMINARS AND EVENTS

Several different seminars/debates were held during the festival. Here participants could get the pulse of regional possibilities as well as several seminars aimed directly at hands on filmmaking. The **North Norwegian Film Centre** was once again a great contributor of seminars aimed at filmmakers from the North.

The newly started **Filmbågan** (Film Arch) visited TIFF with 30 producers from the northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland, and participated at several seminars/events.

At **Below ZERO**, a new cooperation between EDN, The North Norwegian Film Centre and TIFF, 11 documentary projects were pitched for a panel of international financiers. All films had to have a northern/polar dimension. Apart from the Nordic countries, financiers also came from Italy, Germany and Belgium.



Director Nils Gaup leads a seminar on acting.



Screenwriter Martin Daniel lectured participants at Filmbågan.

Approximately 180 accredited members of the film industry were in Tromsø connected to the Films from the North program.

Summary: Films from the North 2008

CLOSING NIGHT

The festival closed with the award ceremony on Saturday night. The Tromsø Palm award for best film and a grant of € 5000 was awarded to Hanne Larsen for her acclaimed short film *Varde*.



Photo: Ola Roe

Produced by Original Film from Tromsø, *Varde (Cairn)* received financial support at last year's Films from the North Opening, has won the Norwegian Amanda and really made the full circle by coming back and winning the main award at this year's Films from the North program.

Director Hanne Larsen receives production support at the opening of FFN in 2008.

TIFF wishes to thank all contributors and participants. We hope to see you again in 2010!



Top and bottom right: Audiences at different venues.

Bottom left: Film consultant Kalle Løchen receives golden shoes for his support of several films at the FFN opening.

All photos by Ingrid A. Mæhlum except where otherwise specified.