



Stockholm Impact Award goes to Wayne Roberts

Ms Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm, announced today Wayne Roberts, director of *Katie Says Goodbye*, as winner of Stockholm Impact Award. During the Stockholm International Film Festival Award Ceremony, Roberts will receive the prize designed by Ai Weiwei and will be given 1 million SEK in support to upcoming film projects.

The jury including the directors Sofia Exarchou (*Park*), Alankrita Shrivastava (*Lipstick Under My Burkha*) and Mohammed Hammad (*Withered Green*) – all of them with films of their own in the festival program – has announced Wayne Roberts as winner of the film award Stockholm Impact Award.

Motivation: *Katie Says Goodbye* is a sensitive, layered and complex coming of age story of a young American girl. The film displays a clearly female sensitive gaze, without sensationalizing Katie's heart breaking story. It shows us the complexity of human nature, people and relationships, be they women or men, without judgment. The cinematic style of the film is fresh and subtle, and the performance of Olivia Cooke as Katie is compelling. It leaves you experiencing the innocence, the darkness, the vulnerability and the strength of the lovable Katie. It is a startlingly brave portrayal of a young woman. Through its sensitive handling of the politics of what it means for a woman to have agency over her own body, it challenges age old stereotypes of women.

- I am very glad that Stockholm and Stockholm Film Festival for the second year hands out Stockholm Impact Award. The purpose of the prize is to highlight film that reflects our society and film that does not shy away from sensitive topics. Film has the ability to reflect our modern society, and films like this one are contributions in the shaping and development of our society, says Karin Wanngård (s), Mayor of Stockholm.

Wayne Roberts will receive the film award designed by Ai Weiwei during the Stockholm Film Festival Award Ceremony on Friday 18th of November.

The section Stockholm Impact Award is a collaboration between the Stockholm International Film Festival and the City of Stockholm with the purpose to highlight the possibility of film to create change and debate through the depiction of contemporary subjects. The prize amount of 1 million SEK will help the winner in the development of new film projects.

The 27th Stockholm International Film Festival November 9-20 2016. *Stockholm International Film Festival started in 1990 and is today one of the leading competitive film festivals in Europe. The festival takes place every year in November with 200 films from more than 60 countries.*

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Nominated for Stockholm Impact Award: *500M800M* by Yao Tian (Hong Kong, China), *The Citizen* by Roland Vranik (Hungary), *The Dark Wind* by Hussein Hassan (Iraq, Germany, Qatar), *The Fixer* by Adrian Sitaru (Romania, France), *Katie Says Goodbye* by Wayne Roberts (USA, France), *Play the Devil* by Maria Govan (Trinidad & Tobago, Bahamas, USA).

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