

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association

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'La La Land' Music to the Ears of D.C. Film Critics

Washington, D.C. — "La La Land" was singing a happy tune when The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association (WAFCA) announced their top honorees for 2016 this morning. Sparkling musical love story "La La Land" was the big winner, racking up seven awards, including Best Film and Best Director (Damien Chazelle).

"La Land," a song-and-dance romance about two star-crossed lovers struggling to make their professional dreams a reality, also earned the Best Original Screenplay prize for Chazelle's adept balance of intimate human drama and heart-soaring musical set-pieces. The film swept the technical categories, including Best Original Score for Justin Hurwitz's lushly beautiful compositions and Best Cinematography for Linus Sandgren's resplendent lensing.

WAFCA awarded Best Actor to Casey Affleck for his quietly devastating work in touching family drama "Manchester by the Sea." In the film, Affleck plays a grieving handyman who is given custody of his teenage nephew following the sudden death of the boy's father. Lucas Hedges, who portrays his nephew, took home the award for Best Youth Performance. For her exquisitely authentic turn in "Jackie," Natalie Portman was feted with Best Actress honors. Portman portrays First Lady Jackie Kennedy during the week following President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Best Supporting Actor was awarded to Mahershala Ali, as a sympathetic drug dealer who offers solace to a bullied and neglected young boy, in "Moonlight." Best Supporting Actress went to Viola Davis for her searing work in "Fences," based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by August Wilson. Of special note, Davis previously earned a Tony Award for playing the same role in a 2010 Broadway production. The Best Acting Ensemble award went to gritty Texas-set crime drama "Hell or High Water," starring Chris Pine, Ben Foster, Jeff Bridges, Gil Birmingham and Katy Mixon.

In thoughtfully adapting author Ted Chiang's short story "Story of Your Life," Eric Heisserer earned Best Adapted Screenplay honors for humanist science-fiction drama "Arrival." Lyrical stop-motion animated adventure "Kubo and the Two Strings," set in Ancient Japan, was awarded Best Animated Feature. Best Documentary kudos went to "13th," director Ava DuVernay's incisive look at racism and the United States criminal justice system. Paul Verhoeven's electrifying psychological thriller "Elle" won Best Foreign Language Film.

WAFCA introduced two new categories this year. For his delicious turn as a big friendly giant who befriends a young orphaned girl in "The BFG," Mark Rylance won the award for Best Motion Capture Performance. Tenderly playing a different kind of giant who comes to the aid of a child in need, Liam Neeson earned Best Voice Performance for "A Monster Calls."

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of Washington, DC, given each year in honor of one of WAFCA's cherished late members, went to "Jackie."

The Washington, D.C. Area Film Critics Association comprises 50 DC-VA-MD-based film critics from television, radio, print and the Internet. Voting was conducted from December 2-4, 2016.

THE 2016 WAFCA AWARD WINNERS:

Best Film:

La La Land

Best Director:

Damien Chazelle (La La Land)

Best Actor:

Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)

Best Actress:

Natalie Portman (Jackie)

Best Supporting Actor:

Mahershala Ali (Moonlight)

Best Supporting Actress:

Viola Davis (Fences)

Best Acting Ensemble:

Hell or High Water

Best Youth Performance:

Lucas Hedges (Manchester by the Sea)

Best Voice Performance:

Liam Neeson (A Monster Calls)

Best Motion Capture Performance:

Mark Rylance (The BFG)

Best Original Screenplay:

Damien Chazelle (La La Land)

Best Adapted Screenplay:

Eric Heisserer, Based on the Story "Story of Your

Life" by Ted Chiang (Arrival)

Best Animated Feature:

Kubo and the Two Strings

Best Documentary:

13th

Best Foreign Language Film:

Elle

Best Production Design:

Production Designer: David Wasco; Set Decorator:

Sandy Reynolds-Wasco, SDSA (La La Land)

Best Cinematography:

Linus Sandgren, SFS (La La Land)

Best Editing:

Tom Cross, ACE (La La Land)

Best Original Score:

Justin Hurwitz (La La Land)

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of

Washington, DC:

Jackie

The 2016 WAFCA AWARD NOMINEES WERE:

Best Film:

Arrival Hell or High Water La La Land

Manchester by the Sea

Moonlight

Best Director:

Damien Chazelle (La La Land)

Barry Jenkins (Moonlight)

Kenneth Lonergan (Manchester by the Sea)

David Mackenzie (Hell or High Water)

Denis Villeneuve (Arrival)

Best Actor:

Casey Affleck (Manchester by the Sea)

Joel Edgerton (Loving)

Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge)

Ryan Gosling (La La Land)

Denzel Washington (Fences)

Best Original Screenplay:

Taylor Sheridan (Hell or High Water)

Damien Chazelle (La La Land)

Kenneth Lonergan (Manchester by the Sea)

Barry Jenkins, Story by Tarell Alvin McCraney (Moonlight)

Yorgos Lanthimos, Efthimis Filippou (The Lobster)

Best Adapted Screenplay:

Eric Heisserer, Based on the Story "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang

(Arrival)

August Wilson, Based on his Play (Fences)

Luke Davies, Adapted from the Memoir "A Long Way Home" by Saroo

Brierley (Lion)

Patrick Ness, Based on his Novel (A Monster Calls)

Tom Ford, Based on the Novel "Tony and Susan" by Austin Wright

(Nocturnal Animals)

Best Animated Feature:

Finding Dory

Kubo and the Two Strings

Moana

Sausage Party

Zootopia

Best Actress:

Amy Adams (Arrival) Annette Bening (20th Century Women) Ruth Negga (Loving) Natalie Portman (Jackie) Emma Stone (La La Land)

Best Supporting Actor:

Mahershala Ali (Moonlight)
Jeff Bridges (Hell or High Water)
Ben Foster (Hell or High Water)
Lucas Hedges (Manchester by the Sea)
Michael Shannon (Nocturnal Animals)

Best Supporting Actress:

Viola Davis (Fences) Greta Gerwig (20th Century Women) Naomie Harris (Moonlight) Molly Shannon (Other People) Michelle Williams (Manchester by the Sea)

Best Acting Ensemble:

Fences Hell or High Water Manchester by the Sea Moonlight 20th Century Women

Best Youth Performance:

Lucas Hedges (Manchester by the Sea) Lewis MacDougall (A Monster Calls) Sunny Pawar (Lion) Hailee Steinfeld (The Edge of Seventeen) Anya Taylor-Joy (The Witch)

Best Voice Performance:

Jason Bateman (Zootopia) Auli'i Cravalho (Moana) Ellen DeGeneres (Finding Dory) Ginnifer Goodwin (Zootopia) Liam Neeson (A Monster Calls)

Best Motion Capture Performance:

Liam Neeson (A Monster Calls) Mark Rylance (The BFG)

Best Documentary:

Gleason I Am Not Your Negro O.J.: Made in America 13th Weiner

Best Foreign Language Film:

Elle
Julieta
The Handmaiden
The Salesman
Toni Erdmann

Best Production Design:

Production Designer: Patrice Vermette; Key Decorator: Paul Hotte (Arrival)
Production Designer: Stuart Craig; Set Decorator: Anna Pinnock (Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them)

Production Designer: Jean Rabasse, ADC; Set Decorator: Véronique

Melery (Jackie)

Production Designer: David Wasco; Set Decorator: Sandy Reynolds-

Wasco, SDSA (La La Land) Craig Lathrop (The Witch)

Best Cinematography:

Bradford Young, ASC (Arrival)
Stéphane Fontaine, AFC (Jackie)
Linus Sandgren, SFS (La La Land)
James Laxton (Moonlight)
Seamus McGarvey, ASC, BSC (Nocturnal Animals)

Best Editing:

Joe Walker, ACE (Arrival) Sebastián Sepúlveda (Jackie) Tom Cross, ACE (La La Land) Nat Sanders, Joi McMillon (Moonlight) Blu Murray (Sully)

Best Original Score:

Jóhann Jóhannsson (Arrival) Mica Levi (Jackie) Justin Hurwitz (La La Land) Nicholas Britell (Moonlight) Cliff Martinez (The Neon Demon)

The Joe Barber Award for Best Portrayal of Washington, DC:

Jackie Jason Bourne Loving Miss Sloane Snowden