

INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Twelfth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films

The Twelfth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films was held in Varna, Bulgaria, from 31 May to 7 June. This event, which is organized every two years by the Bulgarian Red Cross and sponsored by the League, the ICRC and the World Health Organization, was attended this year by about 700 guests from 55 countries. Some 195 films were presented in the competition, in the four Festival categories: Red Cross/Red Crescent films (58 films); short and medium-length films; television programmes and films; and feature-length films.

The guests and participants were welcomed by the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, Dr. Kiril Ignatov. Speeches were made on behalf of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement by Mrs. Denise Bindschedler, Vice-President of the ICRC, at the opening ceremony, and by Mr. Enrique de la Mata, President of the League, at the closing ceremony.

The films shown at the Festival focused mainly on threats to humanity such as AIDS and the nuclear peril. At its conclusion the principal prizes were awarded to the National Societies of the United States, Bulgaria, Finland and the Soviet Union and to television networks and independent producers from Bulgaria, Japan, Poland, the Soviet Union and India. In the category of Red Cross/Red Crescent films, the jury awarded the Grand Prix of the League to the documentary "To walk, again" produced by the ICRC Audio-Visual Communication Division in co-operation with the American Red Cross.

A list of the principal prize-winners is given below.

1. Red Cross/Red Crescent category

- “The Golden Ship”, Grand Prix of the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, went to “BEYOND FEAR”, presented by the American Red Cross. This was the final version of a Red Cross video film on AIDS.
- The Grand Prix of the League was awarded to “TO WALK, AGAIN”, an ICRC documentary on assistance to the disabled.
 - a) *Sub-category A (Education and training)*
 - Gold medal: “SNOW WHITE” by the Bulgarian Red Cross, an animated cartoon on the promotion of free blood donations.
 - Silver medal: “APPLES FROM THE FAMILY GARDEN” by the Romanian Red Cross, on the effects of tobacco and alcohol addiction on an expectant mother;
 - b) *Sub-category B (Information and promotion)*
 - Gold medal: “CHAIN OF LIFE”, co-production of the Finnish and Soviet National Societies on primary health care and development;
 - Silver medal: “THIS IS YOUR BLOOD” by the Australian Red Cross, an explanation of blood donation for young audiences.

2. Short and medium-length films

- Grand Prix: “HOME No. 8”, from Bulgaria, on human relations in a home for mentally handicapped young people;
- Gold medal: “HIRO, WALK TALL”, from Japan: the story of a child born without arms and legs.
- Gold medal: “ON THE THRESHOLD OF LIFE”, from Poland, the development of the human embryo.

3. Television films

Grand Prix: “THE DONOR’S HEART”, from Bulgaria: Medical and social aspects of cardiac transplantation.

4. Feature films

- Grand Prix: “DEAD MAN’S LETTERS”, from the Soviet Union: The horrors of nuclear war.
- Special prize of the League (for the best film of a humanitarian character): “THE CROSSING”, from India: The suffering of a young family within the caste system.