

70TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL LE PLUS GRAND FÊTE DU CINÉMA!

To me, the number 70 always exuded a grand feeling. Cannes Film Festival reaching its 70th year was definitely a landmark of its own, but the grandness of the celebration and the star power it exuded were unlike any other film festivals of its kind.

Directors, actors and film industry individuals of anywhere in the world will agree with me on the fact that Cannes Film Festival is the greatest film award ceremony in the world. The extent to which Cannes promotes film and showcases both young and new talents is simply unparalleled.

Needless to say, my Cannes experience this year was quite different from the ones I had in the past five years. As a longtime fan and follower of Cannes, the recurring element this year was something I was greatly bothered with. Almost all the films that were featured this year showcased destruction, violence and darkness. It is an understandable fact that the whole world is in a chaotic state right now, and that fact has been thoroughly presented in the movies this year. The unrest that is occurring in the world right now was a common occurrence in these movies, and an aware audience as me was quite disturbed by these prevalent themes. I personally found it quite hard to accept so much negativity in such high-class movies. But I can't deny that this is, indeed, reality. Politically, economically and even individually, we are in turmoil. Terrorism is everywhere and countries can't provide enough security to their people. The might of even the most developed countries can't stand to the grittiness of this reality. When I went to watch the movies presented

this year, I expected to be away from such an undeniable darkness but that clearly wasn't the case. I have to accept reality, and I can't really expect peaceful and fun themes in movies all the time. Other journalists and critics present there agreed with me on this feeling.

A major hassle we all faced was the strenuous security system, which ruined so much time for everyone. Every show, especially in the main premise, included security guards scanning our bodies from head to toe. I do understand that it's mandatory and no one really wants a sudden tragedy to occur during the festival. Speaking of tragedies, we spent a 1-minute silence for the Manchester incident. A grim reminder of how dark the current world really is.

Coming to the main competition, the awards were decided by a jury of big names in the film industry. There were over 6000 journalists present at the event, and we discussed among ourselves to decide some expected winners, and almost all of them matched our expectations. Celebrity directors who are no stranger to being featured in Cannes and other prestigious film festivals received our prominent focus. We specifically preferred Michael Haneke, Fatih Akin, Sofia Coppola, Naomi Kawase, Todd Haynes and Yorgos Lanthimos. Usually there are three to four such names in the lineup each year but this time

almost all of them had their work featured or nominated. Maybe that's the charm of the 70th festival.

We expected "Loveless", "120 Beats Per Minute", "The Beguiled", "Happy End" and "The Killing of a Sacred Deer" to take home the main awards. "Happy End", sadly, did not receive any awards, which was quite understandable. Michael Haneke's specific style was present in this movie, but we could not see anything new from it. "Amour", being its more successful forerunner, received the 'Palme d'Or' at 2012, so we couldn't help but expect "Happy End" to be a movie of the same caliber. It wasn't bad but it wasn't as good as "Amour". Haneke's common theme of family was maintained here, and like always his movie seemed like a continuation. "The Square" was in the heart of many agreements and disagreements, but no one really expected it to win the greatest prize of them all: Palme d'Or. The satirical approach it took to represent modern interpretation of art was extremely interesting, and it definitely deserved the most prestigious award.

Cannes Film Festival has unique characteristics that set it apart from other film festivals.

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