

Costa-Gavras scoops top prize as COLCOA draws to a close

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Costa-Gavras' *Eden Is West* was awarded the top prize by the jury of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association at the 13th Annual City Of Lights, City Of Angels, (COLCOA).

The critics gave a special prize to Remi Bezancon's *The First Day Of The Rest Of Your Life* and actress Yolande Moreau received a special mention for her Cesar Award winning work in *Seraphine* as well as her turn in the comedy caper *Louise-Michel*.

"There were so many wonderful films at this year's COLCOA – comedies, romances, family chronicles, psychological dramas, espionage thrillers, a crime-epic, a superb documentary, and several moving journeys of self-liberation, whether through the making of art, the mastering of chess or simply swimming for your life," jury president F X Feeney said.

"How could we choose? Fortunately, in *Eden Is West* Costa-Gavras succeeds in nearly all of these forms of excellence. He holds up a truthful mirror to the cruel divided nature of our world, of its brutal displacements and callous barriers – yet he never loses his sense of humour."

Philippe Lioret's *Welcome* won the COLCOA Audience Award, while *Baby Love*, written and directed by Vincent Garenq, garnered both the COLCOA First Feature and Audience special prize awards.

Audience special mention went to Cesar winner Jean-Francois Richet's gangster epic *Mesrine: A Film In Two Parts*. Senator Distribution will release in mid-August.

Gautier About's *Make Yourself At Home* won the COLCOA Short Film Award while *Nous* from Olivier Hems, was awarded the COLCOA Short Film Special Prize. Jeremy Clapin's *Skhizein* won a special animation prize, while Cecile Ducrocq and Raphael Goldman won a special mention for their acting in *A Private Lesson*.

COLCOA is funded by the Franco-American Cultural Fund to premiere French films over the course of a week in Los Angeles.