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Film Festivals

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'Habibi' nabs best Arab pic and Fipresci honors at Dubai

'Tatsumi,' 'Amal' nab AsiaAfrica and Emirati honors

By DIANA LODDERHOSE

Susan Youssef's love story "Habibi" won best film in the Muhr Arab feature competition and the Fipresci critics prize for Arab feature at the Dubai Film Festival, which wrapped Wednesday.

Singaporean Eric Khoo's animated "Tatsumi" topped the Muhr AsiaAfrica competition, while Nujoom Alghanem's "Amal," a documentary about a Syrian woman, nabbed first prize in the Muhr Emirati section at the closing ceremony, held at the Zabeel Saray Hotel.

Muhr AsiaAfrica doc prize went to jailed Iranian filmmakers Jafar Panahi and Mojtaba Mirtahmasb for "This Is Not a Film," about Panahi's life under house arrest.

Nadim Mishlawi's "Sector Zero," about Lebanon's fragmented, sectarian identity, picked up the Muhr Arab doc laurel.

The Fipresci international critics' prize for Arab docu went to Hady Zaccak's "Mercedes," recounting Lebanon's recent history from the perspective of a Mercedes 180 automobile.

Contact Diana Lodderhose at diana.lodderhose@variety.com



"Habibi"



"When Santa Fell to Earth"

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