



NATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS TOP AWARDS TO IRISH SCHOOLCHILDREN

The National FÍS Film Festival took place today (Tuesday November 4th 2008) in the Helix at Dublin City University with over 700 children and their teachers attending from around Ireland. Twenty-six awards were presented to schools and their students to celebrate their outstanding film achievements in areas such as animation, acting, editing and direction.

Children in over 100 primary schools throughout Ireland participated in the FÍS project by writing, directing and producing their own 5-minute films in a wide variety of genres including comedy, history, horror and cinn as Gaeilge freisin. Regional screening events, some of which took place at local cinemas, were organised by local Education Centres and created great excitement in the local communities. From the many submitted films, twenty-six were selected for their outstanding achievements to participate at the National FÍS Film Festival.

Commenting on the National FÍS Film Festival, Anne White, National Coordinator with the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE), said, **"We congratulate children from all over Ireland who have made these wonderful films. The FÍS methodology, using digital technologies, presents teachers and children with a collaborative approach to learning through the art of filmmaking. There are many roles to be undertaken in the filmmaking process and as a result FÍS often uncovers qualities and talents in children that might otherwise remain undiscovered. Their immense creativity never fails to impress."**

This is the fourth year the National FÍS Film Festival celebrates outstanding film achievements by primary school children. FÍS is an initiative of the Department of Education and Science and the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) with additional support provided by the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology (IADT).

-ENDS-

Please note: Anne White is available for interview on 087 293 1628.

A DVD of produced films is available upon request. Additionally a selection of films can be viewed at:

<http://web.me.com/fisvideo/FISFESTIVAL08/Home.html>

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