Family blockbuster - how Yaroslavl became the center of the world for one week in July



New York City, New York Jul 26, 2025 (Issuewire.com) - One of the most striking events of the summer of 2025 - the world's largest family film festival "Within the Family" has come to an end. 43 countries, 157 films and 15 thousand people gathered at the festival this year and once again turned Yaroslavl into the family film capital of the world.

The festival was held in July with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Rostec State Corporation and the head of the corporation Sergey Chemezov personally, the Government of the Yaroslavl Region, and the Mayor's Office of Yaroslavl. It was especially valuable to receive a greeting from the Russian President Vladimir Putin for the second year in a row to the participants and guests of the 20th festival edition.

In 2025 the festival celebrated its 20th anniversary – an important milestone in the history of the world's largest forum dedicated to family and children's films.

This year the geography of the festival's film competitions was incredibly large-scale. During the fest, viewers watched 157 short and full-length films from 43 countries, including: Russia, China, Turkey, South Korea, Italy, India, Iran, Mexico, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Ethiopia and Senegal.

Funny and philosophical, ironic and sad, comedies and dramas - different in genre and subject matter - they were all about family, about how modern parents, children and relatives live in different countries.

This year, the jury of the Main Competition included: the People's Artist of Russia and the chairman of the jury - Stanislav Lyubshin (Russia); film director Pradip Kurbah (India); film director Tufan Şimşekcan (Turkey); Executive Director of the Cinema in 7 Days short film competition - Wang Ting (China); screenwriter - Alexander Arkhipov (Russia); member of the Board of the Cinema and Roskino Foundation - Yulia Golubeva (Russia).

The opening ceremony and the Red Carpet, as well as other events of the festival, were broadcast live on social media platforms and television channels, collecting more than 1.5 million views.

Also this year the educational program was expanded. More than 100 young actors and directors from Yaroslavl, Moscow, and other Russian regions, got the opportunity to improve their professional skills and meet top specialists of the domestic and foreign film industry. The week-long intensive course included working with renowned acting coaches and teachers, as well as famous marketers, producers, casting directors and directors. The training resulted in the presentation of videos that the participants themselves filmed and edited over several days of training.

For the first time, the festival hosted a unique creative event – a renowned acting showcase that brought together the best actors and casting directors. The actors were able to demonstrate their abilities and be noticed.

The Business Program is always a significant part of the festival. This year, the best speakers from the world of the film industry, business and the public sector gathered at the main cultural center. The program included 14 events, more than 2.8 thousand participants in meetings, master classes, trainings and discussions on professional topics. The experts discussed the role of cinema in modern society, changes in the film industry and the importance of the festival for the Russian social and cultural sphere.

In addition to the events in Yaroslavl itself, a large cultural program was held in the region. Distinguished artists visited surrounding towns and villages with creative evenings. The residents welcomed the artists so warmly that the memories of the festival will remain with them for a long time. Following the festival, the winners were named in four competition programs - features and short films. The Grand Prize of the main features competition was awarded to the film "In the Arms of the Tree" from Iran. The Best Film Award of the children's features competition was awarded to the Russian comedy melodrama "Rhythms of Dreams."

Within the Family film festival in 2025 became not only a major international cultural event, but also a reminder of how important it is to unite around the values of kindness, love, family and humanity. The next festival is already in the plans - with new meanings, faces and stories.





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