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Halifax film wins awards at U.S. fest

By ANDREA NEMETZ Entertainment Reporter

Halifax filmmaker Pardis Parker's short film *Two Men, Two Cows, Two Guns* received the Best Film Award, Best Comedy Award, and Audience Award at the Montgomery Film Festival in Alabama last weekend.

The film was also nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award for best direction, film and placed second at Twin Rivers Media Festival in North Carolina.

Born in Sri Lanka and raised in Halifax, Parker wrote and directed *Two Men*, which screened as a rough cut at the Atlantic Film Festival in 2009.

It stars John Dunsworth (*Trailer Park Boys*) and Levi MacDougall (*Important Things With Demetri Martin*) and Halifax actors Sherry Smith, Murlane Carew, and Christopher Bearne, and is described as "a tightly woven comedy about an unexpected visitor with odd news and an odder story who interrupts a family's quiet day at the farmhouse."

Parker, who also wrote and directed the 2008 short *Afghan* says in a news release, "It's tough for comedy to translate across borders, so it's particularly rewarding to see that the film is being received just as well in Alabama as it is in Canada. And the awards are a great way to thank everyone who worked on the project. We had a great crew and amazing support from the film community here in Halifax."

Christopher Porter, who worked on the lighting team for *Brokeback Mountain*, was responsible for the film's cinematography; brothers Asif and Shehab Ilyas, former bandmembers in *Mir*, contributed an original song and the film's score, both of which were recorded and produced at The Shire, the duo's Halifax studio.

Parker also has Canadian Comedy Award nods for best standup newcomer, best performance by a male in a film and best writing for a film (*Afghan*). Winners will be announced in Toronto in October.

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