

Zimbabwean writer takes first prize at recent Sithengi Writers Forum

Zimbabwean scriptwriter, Ian Pugh, took home the Sithengi Writers Forum (WF) prize this year for his script, entitled *Pawpaw*. Sponsored by Eubulus and Jacintha Timothy of Eubulus Timothy Productions and Final Draft, the prize of a final draft software package was presented to Pugh during the HIVOS/Sithengi Film Fund Launch on the final day of the Sithengi market.

Pawpaw is set in the midst of the Rhodesian War, where a private boarding school opens its doors for the first time to black pupils. One of these boys, Ncazelo Simbarashe, nicknamed Pawpaw, is an epileptic who has undergone corrective brain surgery. With seemingly insurmountable odds stacked against him Pawpaw shows a courage and an open-heartedness that would eventually win over even his most hardened adversaries.

Set against a backdrop of war comes the story of one friendship that would be made to withstand the ultimate test.



Pugh receiving his award from Sithengi CEO, Mike Auret

Says Eubulus Timothy, “This is a great African drama with strong characters and good storyline” Timothy will now submit the screenplay on behalf of Pugh into the Hartley-Merrill Screenwriting Awards in Hollywood. Timothy is himself a recipient of this award.

A special award went to Jan Cilliers de Wet for his CGI animation screenplay, *The House of Ma Chi*, for “it’s innovative and unique approach.” The story follows Jasper a juggler and the precocious son of a circus family crossing the weird Bogi desert, when Fate hands him a mysterious stone and throws him from the wagon train. In search of food, water and transport, he investigates an eery ruined building, walking into a power struggle between its primary occupants – Deepmind and Bulsch – who both desire the stone. The conflict spirals down to the core of the building where the commotion blows the “Ma-chi” power trapped there, fuses Deepmind and Bulsch into a composite being, saturates Jasper with Ma-chi and so sets up his future travels.

Eubulus Timothy is the founding chair of the Cape Film Commission and winner of the Hartley-Merrill Screenwriting Award 2004 in Hollywood. Jacintha Timothy is the past Director of CVET and Executive Producer of ETV.