



2010
FEBRUARY 23–26
AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY
CONFERENCE

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Friday 26 February 2010

Elizabeth Tadic wins Inaugural F4 Award for Outstanding New Documentary Talent

Elizabeth Tadic is the first winner of the **F4 Award for Outstanding New Documentary Talent** for her film *Umoja: Where Women Run Wild*.

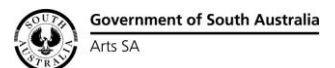
The announcement was made today at the 2010 Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) currently being held in Adelaide. **F4**, the inaugural First Factual Films Festival has been presented in conjunction with AIDC.

Tadic's documentary was chosen out of seven films which had been selected as finalists for showing at F4. Around 80 entries had been received from first-time documentary makers.

Drive, directed by **Telen Rodwell** and **Bronwyn Purvis** received a 'special mention'.

The judging panel consisted of F4 Jury President - Richard Sowada, Head of Film Programs ACMI (AUS) and F4 Jury Members - Edwina Waddy, Development Producer ABC TV (AUS); Flora Gregory, Editor Witness Al Jazeera English (UK); Esther van Messel, CEO First Hand Films (CHE); and Tom Zubrycki, Documentary Filmmaker (AUS).

F4 Jury President - Richard Sowada says, *"What was impressive first-up was the high quality of all the works. And for early career filmmakers that's a genuine cause for celebration as to the future of oz documentary filmmaking. The vigorous discussion around the final two films - Telen Rodwell and Bronwyn Purvis (Drive) and Elizabeth Tadic (Umoja) had its '12 Angry Men' moments, and though we would have dearly loved to award both, Umoja won the day. Very accomplished and finely tuned storytelling. Both were great and obviously personal achievements."*



For more info about **F4** visit: f4.org.au

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F4 is presented by AIDC in association with the

UMOJA: WHERE WOMEN RUN WILD Director Elizabeth Tadic



UMOJA: WHERE WOMEN RUN WILD tells the amusing and life-changing story of a group of tribal Samburu women in Northern Kenya who reclaim their lives, turning age-old patriarchy on its head, when they set up a women's only village.

Their story began some years back, when around 600 women claimed they were raped by British soldiers. When the women returned home, their husbands beat them and cast them out, asserting they had brought shame to

their families. In 1995, several women banded together to establish the village of Umoja [unity], on an unoccupied field in the dry grasslands.

Rebecca Lolosoli, a charismatic and outspoken crusader for women's rights, becomes the matriarch, encouraging the women to build a village where no men are allowed. They make handicrafts, which they sell to tourists but their prosperity incurs the wrath of the men, who raid the village and attempt to stop tourist buses from reaching Umoja.

These women have rewritten traditional tribal laws and now have a taste for freedom. The finale in this unlikely gender war is a showdown between the intractable women and a village chief sent in to resolve the conflict. But there's simply no turning back for these women.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Elizabeth Tadic grew up in a patriarchal Bosnian migrant family in Sydney's multicultural belly, Marrickville. From an early age, she stood her ground on sexual equality by refusing to do any chores traditionally relegated to females. Instead she helped her father build houses by carrying bricks and stomped on grapes to make red wine.

It's no surprise then that Elizabeth has spent the past decade working as a video journalist telling stories about injustices and women's rights. In 2006, she produced a trilogy *Women For Justice* for SBS television program "Dateline", where she followed three powerful women fighting for their human rights from the corrupt streets of Nigeria to Pakistan. For this body of work she was awarded a UN Media Peace Award, a Walkley nomination and the prestigious Rory Peck Sony Impact Award.

DRIVE Directors Bronwyn Purvis & Telen Rodwell

Tasmania, the southern most isolated state of Australia lays claim to the nation's highest rate of road fatality. Young men are dying in high speed, single vehicle crashes, crumpled in metal coffins, on lonely rural roads. DRIVE is a film about identity and the rites of passage young men face on their journey to adulthood - gaining a driver's license and the legal right to drink alcohol.

