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'Pip and Zastrow' wins film award

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A movie about the relationship of two Annapolis men during the civil rights era has won the Target Filmmaker Award to Dream in Color at the American Black Film Festival.

Janice Hayes-Williams, producer of Pip & Zastrow: An American Friendship, and producers/directors Karin Hayes and Victoria Bruce received the award Sunday night in Los Angeles.

"We're so honored that Target chose our film for this award. It shows the company's commitment to support themes such as diversity and friendship in independent film," Hayes said. "And it's exciting to have our world festival premiere in Los Angeles to start the ball rolling across the country."

The film was chosen from 28 films, which were selected from over 400 festival entries. The festival, in its 12th year, was started to find distribution opportunities for black films and strengthen the black filmmaking community.

The film had two screenings at the Beverly Center's Mann Theaters 13, where audience members joined in a question-and-answer session afterward with the filmmakers and Joseph "Zastrow" Simms, a main character in the film.

The film depicts the story of two men, Simms and former Annapolis Mayor Roger "Pip" Moyer, who cross racial boundaries during the 1940s and maintain a friendship through 60 years against the backdrop of the civil rights movement.

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