

ShortFest celebrates talented women



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PALM SPRINGS — Films featuring two of Europe's greatest actresses won the top prizes Sunday at the closing night ceremonies of the Palm Springs International ShortFest.

"Delicate Gravity," featuring French actress Anne Parillaud, won the Best of Festival jury award and "Walking the Dogs," featuring British star Emma Thompson, captured the Audience Favorite Live Action Short prize. Both films screened in the "When Strangers Meet" program Sunday morning and both will repeat today as part of the Best of the Festival program at the Camelot Theatres wrapping the seven-day festival.

Parillaud is best known as the star of the 1990 French film, "La Femme Nikita." After appearing mostly in French roles for 20 years, she makes a charismatic return in the North American premiere of "Delicate Gravity."

The 30-minute film by French director Philippe Andre earned a \$2,000 cash prize plus merchandise worth more than \$10,000 from Radiant Images and Apple Computer. Festival executive director Darryl Macdonald called Parillaud and the film personal favorites.