

Photographer of the Year 2008



▲ 2nd Place

Oistein Thomassen, Norway

Prize: £1000 Jessops vouchers

Film: *Ofelas* (also known as *Pathfinder*)

Oistein says: “*Ofelas* tells a story about good and evil that took place 1000 years ago and was inspired by ancient Sami legend. I’ve tried to convey the mystic impression that I got from watching the film – the warm light from the savvi (traditional Sami tent) represents the good life of the Samis, the cold and dramatic light from the sky the evil Tchudes (Russian warriors) hunting for their next prey. I used a 30-second shutter speed to suck out as much light as possible from the dark scene, and the tops of the trees are blurred by the wind. I also used a headlamp to ‘paint’ the birch trees.”

■ **JUDGES’ COMMENTS:** There’s a very obvious filmic quality to Oistein’s shot, and even if you’ve never heard of the film that inspired it (and, to be honest, we certainly hadn’t), you can still appreciate the frosty mood and subtle nuances. The blurred trees, smudged clouds, clever use of a headlamp... the technique is flawless and the end result is simply stunning. You can almost feel the chill just looking at this shot, and you crave the warmth of the savvi, just as the Sami would have done thousands of years ago. It’s a very subtle play on the age-old good-versus-evil theme, but no less effective for it.

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