



PRESS RELEASE

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Festival Awards Europe 2012 Winners Revealed

The best European music festivals, artists and promoters of 2012 were revealed at a sold-out ceremony, which took place at Groningen's De Oosterpoort in The Netherlands, on the opening night of Eurosonic Noorderslag.

Decided by a combination of public vote and industry juries, Festival Awards Europe is the only event solely dedicated to recognising the contributions and achievements of the event organisers and performing artists that generate billions of Euros for local economies and brighten up the summer for tens of millions of festival-goers each year.

This year's awards were a heightened celebration of triumph over adversity in the wake of a challenging year, which has seen the festival market shaken by economic instability, claims of saturation, some high profile cancellations and the some of the wettest weather on record.

A record number of fans turned out to cast their support in the form of over 1 million public votes, showing that passion for festivals across the continent has never been stronger.

For the first time in Festival Awards history, electronic music arose to take the crown for **Best Major Festival**, courtesy of Belgium's mighty **Tomorrowland** – widely hailed as the festival success story of the year. Dance music also triumphed in the categories for **Best Indoor Festival** (Sensation, Netherlands) and **Best New Festival** (Germany's Electro Magnetic).

Best Medium-Sized Festival was won by **Heineken Balaton Sound** in Hungary (smaller cousin of last year's **Best Major Festival**, Sziget) whilst the title for Best Small Festival was taken back by 2010 winners **Tauron New Music Festival** in Poland – a festival that took place in a disused coal mine, highlighting the creativity and diversity of Europe's contemporary modern festival landscape.

Best European Line-Up and **Artists' Favourite Festival** went to established giants in the

form of German twin titans **Rock am Ring/Rock im Park** and Denmark's colossal **Roskilde**, respectively, the latter approaching its 43rd edition this summer. The two most important industry-facing awards will both be taken back to Belgium with the team behind **Pukkelpop** declared **Promoter Of The Year** - a heartwarming accolade in light of the tragedies that befell the event when it was hit by a freak storm last year. And, as previously announced, **Herman Schueremans** from the country's division of Live Nation received the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

The USA even managed to scoop an award with **Foo Fighters** voted **Headliner Of The Year**, whilst Sweden's Lykke Li seduced crowds across the Continent with 'I Follow Rivers' topping the polls for **Festival Anthem Of The Year**. Not content with just winning an award at the European Border Breaker Awards in the same town earlier that evening, **Of Monsters And Men** sealed their title as one of Iceland's most promising music exports by claiming the award for **Best Newcomer**.

The full list of winners is:

The following awards were decided by the online public vote:

BEST MAJOR FESTIVAL in association with Planet Festival:
TOMORROWLAND (Belgium)

BEST MEDIUM-SIZED FESTIVAL:
HEINEKEN BALATON SOUND (Hungary)

BEST SMALL FESTIVAL:
TAURON NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL (Poland)

HEADLINER OF THE YEAR:
FOO FIGHTERS (USA)

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR in association with Eurosonic Noorderslag:
OF MONSTERS AND MEN (Iceland)

BEST EUROPEAN FESTIVAL LINE-UP in association with ID&C:
ROCK AM RING/ ROCK IM PARK (Germany)

BEST INDOOR FESTIVAL:
SENSATION (Netherlands)

FESTIVAL ANTHEM OF THE YEAR:
Lykke Li - 'I Follow Rivers' (Sweden)

BEST NEW FESTIVAL:
ELECTRO MAGNETIC (Germany)

The following winners were chosen by an industry jury, which included prominent journalists, booking agents, managers, artists and promoters:

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD in association with IVS and IQ Magazine:
HERMAN SCHUEREMANS (Live Nation Belgium)

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR in association with Audience Magazine:
PUKKELPOP (Belgium)

ARTISTS' FAVOURITE FESTIVAL:
ROSKILDE (Denmark)

GREEN OPERATIONS AWARD in association with Go Group and Yourope:
WE LOVE GREEN (France)

Steve Jenner, Festival Awards co-founder, comments: *“This edition of the European Festival Awards has been a great and much needed celebration for the industry as a united whole. A significant increase in events rallying to take part suggests a healthy display of confidence, competitiveness and pride. The staggering number of public votes received shows that people’s appetites for festivals have never been greater. In the face of toughening conditions, the forecast still looks bright for Europe’s festival market”*.

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