



Filmmakers Ron Mann and Charles Officer took home two awards and \$50,000 between them this week at the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts in Toronto.

Mann (*Grass*, *Comic Book Confidential*) won the province's prize for best individual artist, which comes with \$35,000. He was most excited however that it also let him nominate the recipient for the emerging artist, which along with the remaining \$15,000 went to Officer.

"He's a real force and will be recognized as a new generation of filmmaking in Canada", Mann tells Playback Daily. Officer's first feature *Nurse.Fighter.Boy* premiered at TIFF in 2008. He is currently working on a doc for the NFB about sprinter Harry Jerome.

What will Mann do with his cash prize? He's going to Disneyworld -- per his daughter's request.

The veteran documentarian says he felt honored to be recognized among the other nominees, who hail from all aspects of the arts including music, theatre and literature. "It made me think about how fortunate I am to live in a province that nourishes the arts and recognizes that the arts nourish us all" he says.

A third prize went to the group Toronto Artscape for its urban development work. The non-profit group creates affordable spaces for artists to work and live, and were responsible for the recent conversion of a transit yard into an arts centre.

<http://www.playbackonline.ca/articles/daily/20090625/mann.html>