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Awards night pays tribute to Mersey film-makers

MORE than 200 guests turned out for the inaugural Liverpool Film Night Awards 2008.

The event at FACT, at the end of last week, was a culmination of the popular Liverpool Film Nights, which have been taking place at the venue for several years to get the work of Merseyside film-makers featured on the big screen.

Guests watched the six

short films in the running before the winners were announced.

First prize was awarded to director Paul Banner for his short film, 'The Thing About Being A Man, which tells the story of a timid young man seeking guidance and support following the death of his father.

Paul, from Liverpool, was presented with an award together with a £3,000 cash

prize and production support on his next project.

Runners-up Terence Cheung and Mike Forshaw, both from Liverpool, each received £500 for their short films, 'Redemption and Slippin'', respectively.

The awards evening was hosted by BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips. The judging panel was made up of LA Productions' chairman Colin McKeown,

Tube-dale Films producer John Maxwell, Helen Bingham, of North West Vision and Media, Liverpool Daily Post acting arts editor Vicky Anderson and Atlantic Chambers' Donald Fraser and Charles Prior.

Scott Donovan, of film night sponsors Atlantic Chambers, who presented the awards, said: "We conceived the vision of a Liverpool Film Night Award to reward the large

pool of film making talent we have in the city. We have been very impressed with the quality and variety of the short films submitted, and want to congratulate all of the finalists."

John Maxwell, one of the contest judges, revealed: "I think it is absolutely brilliant that we have got something like this.

"A competition will always raise the bar."