

Press Release

The Golden Horseman goes to...: Prize-Winners of the 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN

- Nine Golden Horsemen and four special prizes awarded with prize-money totalling € 66,000

-"Cipka" from Renata Gąsiorowska (Poland) multiple prize-winner

Dresden, 08.04.2017 – Amid much excitement, the Awards Ceremony for the 29th Filmfest Dresden was held this evening. With the happy winners of this year's festival present in the Kleines Haus des Staatsschauspiel Dresden venue to receive their prizes for the best short films. A total of nine Golden Horsemen and four special prizes were awarded by the 16 members of the juries. The Polish director Renata Gąsiorowska scooped up several awards with her courageous and original animated film "Cipka". 63 animated and short fiction films were screened in the two competition sections this year. The winners were delighted to take home prize-money totalling € 66,000.

And here are the Prize-Winners of the 28th FILMFEST DRESDEN 2016.

All winners including the argumentation of the juries and honorable mentions are listed below.

Film stills and footage of the winners:

<http://www.filmfest-dresden.de/en/press/downloads>

International Competition

Golden Horseman Best Animation Film International Competition

Prize money: 7,500 Euro

Sponsor: Friends of FILMFEST DRESDEN & FILMFEST DRESDEN

"Cipka" ("Pussy") from Renata Gąsiorowska

argumentation:

Social taboos should be discussed and confronted with a laugh. The jury had a lot of fun watching this peaceful connection between a woman and her body. For its original graphic style and its fluid animation technique.

Golden Horseman Best Short Fiction International Competition

Prize money: 7,500 Euro

Sponsor: Public Media Authority for Private Broadcasting (SLM)

"Painting with History in a Room Filled with People with Funny Names 3" from

Korakrit Arunanondchai

argumentation:

The jury was struck by the generous and chaotic power of a total work of art; or what we like to call "expanded cinema". It is made by a fearless artist who has no time to waste on labels and other conventions. He has created an anarchic love poem in which he looks at all sides and elements of a complex society.

Golden Horseman of the Audience International Competition

Prize money: 3,000 Euro

Sponsor: Sächsische Zeitung

„**Home**" from Daniel Mulloy (Kosovo/United Kingdom, 2016)

Golden Horseman of the Youth Jury International Competition

Prize money: 2,000 Euro

Sponsor: Programm kino Ost & Medienkulturzentrum Dresden

"Planemo" (Croatia 2016) from Veljka Popovic

argumentation:

Unique images and powerful metaphors permit the audience to immerse themselves in the extraordinary situation of the protagonist. A key event leads to some grave changes in his relationship with his surroundings. This situation is filmically adapted through the atmospheric composition of innovative 3D animations and real footage.

National Competition

Golden Horseman Best Animation Film National Competition

Prize money: 3,000 Euro

Sponsor: QF Quartier & Dresden Information GmbH

"Ein Aus Weg" from Hannah Stragholz and Simon Steinhorst

argumentation:

A colourful, expressive world of animation encounters a sound track from a unique everyday life. The combination of animation and documentary reportage develops into a form full of expression, which is both close and faraway to us at one and the same time. And equally moving.

Golden Horseman Best Short Fiction National Competition

Prize money: 3,000 Euro

Sponsor: Saxony Film Association

"Ela - Szkice na pożegnanie" ("Ela - Sketches on a Departure") from Oliver Adam

Kusio

argumentation:

This is the story of separation as a new beginning. A film about the desire to get away and the duty to remain. With the camera seeking answers just like the protagonists. Tender and haunting, existential in both large and small. It is a profound look into the future of a generation. A moving film full of meaning without being intrusive.

Golden Horseman of the Audience National Competition

Prize money: 4,000 Euro

Sponsor: MDR Public Broadcaster

"Gabi" from Michael Fetter Nathansky

Golden Horseman of the Youth Jury National Competition

Prize money: 2,000 Euro

Sponsor: DREWAG - Stadtwerke Dresden GmbH

"Un Etat D'Urgence" ("State of Emergency") from Tarek Roehlinger (2016)

argumentation:

With its gloomy and tense atmosphere, the film draws us into a world in which everyday actions have become and remain suspicious. Thanks to its topicality and the danger it engenders, it seems as though reality and fiction have become indistinguishable. A conflict arises among the characters between living freedom and defending freedom. Marked by tension, mistrust and scepticism, the film radiates an intensity for the audience that captures them and creates an unforgettable experience.

Minister of Fine Arts Promotion Prize

Prize money: 20,000 Euro

Sponsor: Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts

"Prima Noapte" ("First Night") from Andrei Tănase

argumentation:

A special moment in the life of a young man. Which he imagined would be different. And he overreacts in his helplessness. The director sensitively reveals the fragility of the male identity during the process of maturing, and casually casts a glance at a specific social milieu. A film authentic in the moment. A film that stays in mind.

DEFA Promotion Prize Animation

Prize money: 3,000 Euro

Sponsor: DEFA Foundation

"zu zahm!" from Rebecca Blöcher

argumentation:

Trapped in their roles. With expectations and stereotypes newly shuffled and exposed. The film leaves space for discovery.

National and International Competition

Golden Horseman Best Sound Design

Prize money: 3,000 Euro (1,500 Euro Prize money, 1,500 Euro non-cash prize, both for the sound designer)

Sponsors: Ballroom Studios GbR

"Eine Villa mit Pinien" Music: Ralf Hildenbeutel Sound: Michał Krajczok

argumentation:

The impressionistic images in the film are complemented with a completely unique tonal language. With aural worlds created in a constant interplay doing so, that add a threatening dimension to the exuberant filmic canvas. The music plays a fundamental role, comparable to a protagonist, reaching into the story and advancing it structurally. Working on the utmost level and with extraordinary ingenuity, the composer and the sound designer of this film manage to build bridges between the various plot levels through the sound.

ARTE Short Film Prize

Prize money: 6,000 Euro

Sponsor: ARTE

"Cipka" ("Pussy") from Renata Gąsiorowska

argumentation:

This creative and clever animated film, which focuses on first sexual desires in a courageous and nimble way, sweeps us away on a surprising journey of discovery to the deepest moments of intimacy. The confronting of one's own gender here is characterised by so much humour and charm, that the film becomes irresistible. We congratulate the director and are looking forward to more creative pieces by him.

Audience Award Regional Film Night

Prize money: 2,000 Euro

Sponsor: Filmnächte am Elbufer

"No one misses me!" from Erik Lemke

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Special Mention Best Animation Film International Competition

"A nyalintás nesze" ("The Noise of Licking") from Nadja Andrasev
argumentation:

For its imaginative and original story, elegant style and careful pacing.

Special Mention Animation Film in National Competition

"Wegzaubern" from Betina Kuntzsch

Special Mention Youth Jury International Competition

"Empire of Evil" from Harald Hund

argumentation:

The mockumentary "Empire of Evil" deals with the subject of one-sided Western reporting in a very authentic and humorous manner. With us asking ourselves at times what constitutes the truth. The everyday film footage is skilfully transformed with creative image editing and absurd ideas about the "threat to the West". In this way, an entertaining, media-critical parody has resulted about our opinion of the Middle East.

Special Mention Sound Design

"Cipka" ("Pussy") from Renata Gąsiorowska

argumentation:

The timing in this story is excellent in terms of both the moving images and the music. Skilfully linked with gentle humour, this thoughtful film was worthy of a special mention from us. It is borne by the various equivocal sound levels, which never slip into the obscene. In this way, Volodymyr Antonic, Ewa Bogusz and Wiesław Nowak have provided a humorous and uninhibited sound track.

Partner and Supporters of 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN

Partner: AOK Plus - Die Gesundheitskasse für Sachsen und Thüringen

Main Media Partner: Sächsische Zeitung

Main Supporters: Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst, Amt für Kultur und Denkmalschutz der Landeshauptstadt Dresden

Supporters: Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien, Creative Europe MEDIA, Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung

About FILMFEST DRESDEN – International Short Film Festival:

FILMFEST DRESDEN (www.filmfest-dresden.de/en), which was founded in 1989, is counted among the most renowned and best-endowed short film festivals in Europe. Each year over the six festival days in mid-April, it brings the latest short film productions from Germany, Europe and the world to the cinema screens in the capital of Saxony, and attracts about 25,000 visitors, including 550 accredited media professionals. Prize money totalling €66,000 is awarded in the National and International Competitions for animated and fiction films, together with four special prizes. These include the DEFA Promotion Prize Animation, the ARTE Short Fiction Film Prize, the "Golden Horseman" Sound Design, as well as the Saxon State Ministry for Science and the Fine Arts Promotion Prize, which is endowed with €20,000.

Each year, more than 2,000 short films from 100 countries are submitted for selection to the National and International Competition sections.

In addition to the competitions, the festival also has an extensive range of special programmes which focus on specific themes and countries, as well as retrospectives and film programmes for children and adolescents. Since 2012, the festival's "etc. - events.trainings.connections" section has organised panel discussions, talks, workshops, exhibitions and receptions for media professionals attending the festival as an addition to the film programmes.

FILMFEST DRESDEN is listed as an official reference festival by Germany's main film funding body, the FFA. It is a member of AG Kurzfilm, the federal German short film association, the European Film Academy (EFA) and the Filmverband Sachsen e.V., the film association in Saxony, as well as being involved in the Netzwerk Kultur Dresden local culture network, the WOD initiative for a cosmopolitan Dresden and the Kulturloge Dresden, which brings culture to low income individuals.

The 29th FILMFEST DRESDEN is being held from 4 to 9 April 2017.

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