

„Father“ earns Golden Dove in International Competition at DOK Leipzig

PRESS RELEASE

30 October 2021

Golden Dove in the German Competition for “A Sound of My Own” |

Audience jury awards “Dida” a Golden Dove



DOK Leipzig 2021 | Father (director: Wei Deng)

The award-winning films of the 64th edition of DOK Leipzig have been chosen. The gala award ceremony for the Golden and Silver Doves was held on Saturday evening before a live audience at Leipzig's CineStar.

64th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

25 October to 31 October

The Chinese documentary “**Father**” by Wei Deng has won the **Golden Dove in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film**. The director's first feature film is a portrait of generations about his father and grandfather that depicts tradition and change in Chinese society. “Sincere, poignant and haunting – the narrative goes beyond what is visible to the eye. It shows the complexity of life and becomes a pure homage to humanity,” the jury's statement reads. The Golden Dove, which includes 10,000 euros, has been sponsored by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk since 2013. The award was presented by Dr Ulrich Brochhagen, head of MDR's department of history, documentaries and eastern Europe. The film that earns the Golden Dove in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film qualifies for nomination for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS®, provided it meets the Academy's standards.

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The **Silver Dove** for the best **long documentary or animated film** by an emerging director in the International Competition went to Karol Pałka for his first feature-length film, “**Bucolic**”. This Polish documentary observes a mother and her daughter in their secluded life in the countryside. The jury was impressed by the director's “fresh and innovative cinematic approach” and highlighted the “sensitive depiction of characters” in the film. “It moves effortlessly around a magical universe with the utmost delicacy and modesty,” said the jury. The 6,000-euro award was sponsored by 3sat.

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Leipzig

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The winning long documentaries in the International Competition were selected by Grit Lemke, Anocha Suwichakornpong, Alex Szalat, Katarína Tomková and Raed Yassin. Honourable mentions by the jury went to the

documentary **“Republic of Silence”** by Diana El Jeiroudi as well as to Sarah Noa Bozenhardt and Daniel Abate Tilahun for **“among us women”**.

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In the **German Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film**, **“A Sound of My Own”** by Rebecca Zehr was awarded the **Golden Dove**. This documentary accompanies musician Marja Burchard, who followed in her father’s footsteps and became the bandleader of the legendary Krautrock collective Embryo. She carries on her father’s tradition while seeking her own musical path in a male-dominated industry. “Different materialities and fragments lightly and playfully come together in a composition in which the montage is aware of the specific temporality of cinema,” say jury members Carsten Möller, Gudrun Sommer and Maria Speth. “On the visual as well as the sound level, this extraordinary portrait of an artist is convincing in the way the art of music and the art of documentary film meet.” The 10,000-euro award was sponsored in part by Weltkino Filmverleih GmbH. David Forcht from Weltkino Filmverleih presented the Golden Dove to the filmmaker at the award ceremony.

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The **Golden Dove** in the **Competition for the Audience Award Long Documentary and Animated Film**, which includes 3,000 euros, was awarded by the audience jury to Nikola Ilić and Corina Schwingruber Ilić for **“Dida”**. At the centre of the film is the filmmaker’s mother, Dida, who, due to a learning disability, has always been dependent on her mother, but longs for independence. A look at a family in transition. “The film raises various questions: Who is the child, who the adult? How can one live autonomously, how can one take responsibility for a person in need of help? But above all, the film radiates warmth, humour and great joy,” the jury’s statement reads.

In the **International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film**, Gugi Gumilang, Marina Kožul and Izabela Plucińska chose the recipients of the Golden Doves, each endowed with 3,000 euros. The award for best documentary film went to **“Abyssal”** by Alejandro Alonso, the documentary observation of a ship scrapyards in western Cuba. The award for best animated film went to Marta Pajek for **“Impossible Figures and Other Stories I”**, a complex exploration of transience, life and death. These winning films also qualify for nomination for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS®, provided they meet the Academy’s standards. The Indonesian production **“Tellurian Drama”** by Riar Rizaldi received an honourable mention.

The **Silver Dove** in the **German Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film**, which includes 1,500 euros in prize money, went to Tang Han for her documentary **“Pink Mao”**, an analysis of the 100-yuan note, the largest denomination of Renminbi banknotes in the People’s Republic of China. Honourable mention went to **“Happytrail”** by Jakob Werner, Thea Sparmeier and Pauline Cremer, an animated short film about female body hair.

The **Silver Dove** in the **Competition for the Audience Award Short Documentary and Animated Film** was awarded to Diana Cam Van Nguyen for her animated film **“Love, Dad”**, in which a young woman comes across a letter her father had written from prison 15 years prior. The award, which includes 1,500 euros, was sponsored by the Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e.V. Deputy Chairman Jens Kessler presented the Silver Dove to the filmmaker.

Partnership Awards for documentary and animated films in competition

On Saturday afternoon, numerous partner awards were already being presented at the Regina Palast.

The **DEFA Sponsoring Prize**, which includes 4,000 euros granted by the DEFA Foundation, went to **“Nasim”** by Ole Jacobs and Arne Büttner, a portrait of an Afghan woman and her family in the Moria refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos. Jakob Krese and Danilo do Carmo received an honourable mention for **“What Remains on the Way”**.

The **ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness**, which includes 2,500 euros, was also awarded to **“Nasim”**.

The 3,000-euro **MDR Film Prize** for an outstanding eastern European documentary film was awarded to the Polish production **“The Balcony Movie”** by Paweł Łoziński, who, for two years, set up a camera on his balcony and struck up conversations with the passers-by.

The **Film Prize Leipziger Ring** honours a documentary film about human rights, democracy or civil engagement, is granted by Stiftung Friedliche Revolution (Foundation of the Peaceful Revolution) and comes with 2,500 euros in prize money. This year's award went to Rami Farah and Signe Byrge Sørensen for **“Our Memory Belongs to Us”**, in which Syrian activists now in Paris use video clips to recapitulate their experiences fighting in the Syrian civil war.

The **Goethe-Institut Documentary Film Prize** was awarded to the documentary film **“Republic of Silence”** by Diana El Jeiroudi, whose complex montage encompasses the disintegration of Syria and life in exile in Germany. The award comes with 2,000 euros in prize money, licensing, and subtitling in eight languages.

The 2,000-euro **Young Eyes Film Award**, granted by Leipziger Stadtbau AG, went to Johanna Seggelke for her coming-of-age story **“Reality Must Be Addressed”**. The prize was awarded by the Youth Jury in cooperation with Filmschule Leipzig e.V.

The 1,750-euro **Prize of the Interreligious Jury** was awarded to Cléo Cohen for her film **“May God Be with You”**, an attempt to reconcile her Arab and Jewish selves by posing questions to her grandparents. The award is granted by the Interreligiöser Runder Tisch Leipzig, the Oratorium zu Leipzig and VCH-Hotels Deutschland GmbH – im Verband Christlicher Hoteliers e.V., including Hotel MICHAELIS Leipzig.

The **Prize of the International Film Critics (FIPRESCI Prize)** has gone to **“Words of Negroes”**. In this film, Sylvaine Dampierre has the workers of an old sugar refinery read passages from the transcripts of an 1842 court case, in which slaves testified against their violent master.

The **mephisto 97.6 Award** went to Mahboobeh Kalaei for the animated Iranian film **“The Fourth Wall”**, in which a stuttering boy transforms an Iranian kitchen into a fantastic cosmos.

The **Gedanken-Aufschluss Prize** went to **“The Crossing”** by Florence Miailhe. The prize was awarded by a jury of prisoners of the Juvenile Detention Centre Regis-Breitingen.

As part of the industry platform DOK Industry, five awards were presented during the festival week.

Awarded in the DOK Co-Pro Market:

Culture and Tourism Division of the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism (along with 5,000 euros): **“Broken Flower”** by Sarvnaz Alambeigi (Iran)

The prize is donated by: State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts

Current Time TV Award (along with 1,500 euros): **“Cadillac Dreams”** by Elene Mikaberidze (Georgia, France)

The prize is donated by: Current Time TV

The EWA Diverse Voices Award (along with 1,000 euros and a year-long mentorship by DOK Leipzig): **“The Woman Who Poked the Leopard”** by Patience Nitumwesiga (Uganda)

The prize is donated by: EWA – European Women’s Audiovisual Network

Presented at DOK Preview Germany:

D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize (post-production grant of 10,000 euros): **“President’s Tailor – From Auschwitz to the White House”** by Rick Minnich (Germany, USA)

The prize is donated by: D-Facto Motion GmbH

Presented for the first time at DOK Short n’ Sweet:

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award (along with a festival strategy consultation by Square Eyes): **“Me & Her”** by Eldar Basmanov & Ahmed Fouad Ragab (Estonia, Russia, Egypt)

The prize is donated by: Square Eyes

A total of around 170 films and extended reality works were shown in the Leipzig venues during the week of the festival.

After the festival, a selection of the films can also be viewed online throughout Germany in the DOK Stream from 1 to 14 November 2021, including all of the films that have received a Golden or Silver Dove.

You’ll find details about the award-winning films here: [Programme & Tickets](#)

All of the jury statements and awards, including honourable mentions, can be found in the attachment.

Stills of all films can be found here: [DOK Leipzig film stills](#)

All images may be used free of charge when covering DOK Leipzig. When publishing, please use © DOK Leipzig 2021 / film title, director as the photo credit unless otherwise stated in the image file.

Logos, impressions of the festival and this year’s festival motif can be found in the [press download area](#).

Information about all of DOK Leipzig’s juries can be found here: [Awards](#)

Wir danken für die Unterstützung

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Film

Jury

Grit Lemke, Germany
Anocha Suwichakornpong, Thailand
Alex Szalat, France
Katarína Tomková, Slovakia
Raed Yassin, Lebanon/Germany

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Golden Dove

10.000 €

granted by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk

Wei Deng

Father (Ye ye he fu qin)
China 2020

Jury statement

Sincere, poignant and haunting – the narration goes beyond of what is visible to the eye. It shows the complexity of life and becomes a pure homage of humanity.

~~The winner of the Golden Dove in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS® provided that the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.~~

Honourable Mention

Diana El Jeiroudi

Republic of Silence

Germany, France, Syria, Qatar, Italy 2020

Jury statement

For the poetic and personal approach to a politically urgent subject and transmitting its tensions to a physical experience of the audience.

Silver Dove

6.000 €

granted by 3sat for the best long documentary or animated film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works after completing their education)

Karol Pałka

Bucolic (Bukolika)

Poland 2021

Jury statement

Deeply impressed by the fresh and innovative cinematic approach of the director, we value the film's sensitive depiction of characters. It moves effortlessly around a magical universe with the utmost delicacy and modesty.

Honourable Mention

Sarah Noa Bozenhardt, Daniel Abate Tilahun
among us women (Unter uns Frauen)
Germany, Ethiopia 2021

Jury statement

For its cinematic tenderness, intimate approach and the trust the filmmaker has gained from her protagonists.

International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film

Jury
Gugi Gumilang, Indonesia/Germany
Marina Kožul, Croatia
Izabela Plucińska, Poland/Germany

Golden Dove Short Documentary Film
3.000 €

Alejandro Alonso
Abyssal (Abisal)
France, Cuba 2021

Jury statement

Alejandro Alonso's documentary short Abyssal immerses us in the world of a group of workers at the ship-breaking yard located in Bahía Honda, Cuba. This fascinating and visually mesmerizing film explores the question of progress through the lens of contemporary Cuban society. Unexpected and refreshing in its approach, the film portrays an inside perspective on the dynamics of the workers' daily life and inspires wider conversations about the interplay between different worlds, temporalities and the meaning of life and dreams.

Golden Dove Short Animated Film
3.000 €

Marta Pajek
Impossible Figures and Other Stories I (Figury niemożliwe i inne historie)
Poland, Canada 2021

Jury statement

Impossible Figures and Other Stories I contests many layers of social forces in a seemingly simple approach. It depicts a perspective for the comprehension of the salient problems not only of urban civilization but of contemporary society as a whole. The gentle pace and minimalism of the film not only give a sense of comfort, but hold the attention of the audience and pull them closer to evoke a deeper sense of empathy. It surprises with many historical details, and at the same time stimulates reflection about current events.

The winners of Golden Doves in the International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS® provided that the films otherwise comply with the Academy rules.

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Honourable Mention

Riar Rizaldi
Tellurian Drama
Indonesia 2020

Jury statement

This film encompasses so many transitions and their repercussions: the thought of decolonization, geoengineering technology and human intervention in nature. This is an unassumingly beautiful film and a real accomplishment.

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German Competitions Documentary and Animated Film

Jury
Carsten Möller, Germany
Gudrun Sommer, Austria/Germany
Maria Speth, Germany

Golden Dove Long Documentary and Animated Film

10.000 €
granted by Weltkino Filmverleih GmbH

Rebecca Zehr
A Sound of My Own
Germany 2021

Jury statement

Her charisma is impressive. We meet an artist who wants to find and interpret her own position between musical heritage and social expectations. The virtuosity of her musical performance is translated convincingly and with dreamlike assurance by the award-winning film: Different materialities and fragments lightly and playfully come together in a composition in which the montage is aware of the specific temporality of cinema. On the visual as well as the sound level, this extraordinary portrait of an artist is convincing in the way the art of music and the art of documentary film meet.

Silver Dove Short Documentary and Animated Film

1.500 €

Tang Han
Pink Mao
Germany, China 2020

Jury statement

Inspired by the casual question of the colour of a banknote, this essay unfolds a stream of associative reflections that question supposed certainties. The perspective surprises, dissolves firmly established contexts. Red is actually pink; Mao's ear was added to the picture later – and the most valuable banknote of Chinese socialism marks the entry into global consumer capitalism. Like a liquid, this subtle analysis keeps spreading. With subtle humour, the author Tang Han demonstrates what subversive art can do.

Honourable Mention

Jakob Werner, Thea Sparmeier, Pauline Cremer
Happytrail (Glückspfad)
Germany 2021

Jury statement

For a film whose precise and lovingly animated drawings thrilled us as much as the undisguised and direct approach of the narrator. The film addresses a subject often perceived as annoying or embarrassing in daily life with humour and respect, and with an impressive repertoire of aesthetic imagination.

Competition for the Audience Award

Jury

Lara Hübelt, Germany
Pauline Reinhardt, Germany
Lisa Marie Rothe, Germany
Sarah Schreiner, Germany
Paula Schumann, Germany
Aviv Sheyn, Israel
Alfonso de Toro, Germany

Golden Dove Long Documentary and Animated Film

3.000 €

Nikola Ilić, Corina Schwingruber Ilić
Dida
Switzerland 2021

Jury statement

The filmmakers allow us direct and personal insights into changing family relationships. We move between Belgrade and Lucerne and follow the various roles one takes on in a family – or doesn't take on. The film raises various questions: Who is the child, who the adult? How can one live autonomously, how can one take responsibility for a person in need of help? But above all, the film radiates warmth, humour and great joy.

Silver Dove Short Documentary and Animated Film

1.500 €

granted by Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e. V.

Diana Cam Van Nguyen
Love, Dad
Czech Republic, Slovakia 2021

Jury statement

Love, Dad touches us through its expressive and unique visual language. Diana Cam Van Nguyen has assembled a multi-layered collage whose individual elements merge into a whole. The often-heard narrative of the absent father is retold. Particularly successful is the arc between personal story and political critique of an archaic system where sons are worth more than daughters. Coming to terms with one's own childhood plays with the what-if. At the same time, the film becomes an artistic act of

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emancipation, in which the filmmaker lays the past to rest.

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Partnership Awards

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DEFA Sponsoring Prize

4.000 €

granted by the DEFA Foundation for an outstanding long documentary film by a German director in the competitions

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Jury

Carsten Möller, Germany

Gudrun Sommer, Austria/Germany

Maria Speth, Germany

Ole Jacobs, Arne Büttner

Nasim

Germany 2021

Jury statement

A film that rejects the usual journalistic coverage of the Moria refugee camp which aims at outrage. It focuses on the fate of a woman who meets her children and the people around her with empathy. Who, despite her meekness, does not remain a victim of the circumstances. Who begins to fight to improve her situation, but also that of other refugees. A woman who moves the audience deeply. In a film that is as sensitive, gentle and restrained in its choice of means as that woman herself. It gives a face to the many anonymous fates of fleeing. Nasim's face.

Honourable Mention

Jakob Krese, Danilo do Carmo

What Remains on the Way (Lo que queda en el camino)

Germany, Brazil, Mexico 2021

Jury statement

Lo que queda en el camino revolves around a strong mother of four who takes a great risk to escape living conditions marked by violence. On the 4,000-kilometre march to the US border, the film shows not only the hardships, but also the solidarity of the people that is essential for survival, especially among the women who have embarked on this journey.

MDR Film Prize

3.000 €

for an outstanding Eastern European documentary film

Jury

Thomas Beyer, Germany

Chiara Fleischhacker, Germany

Sylva Kleemann, Germany

Claritta Kratochwil, Germany

Alexander Nanau, Romania

Anja Zhukova, Germany

Paweł Łoziński
The Balcony Movie (Film balkonowy)
Poland 2021

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Jury statement

The concept is simple. A balcony, a camera, a microphone and loads of questions. Paweł Łoziński films the view of the pavement in front of his flat and those who walk past. A pavement somewhere in Poland – what can one expect? Plenty, as we now know. Because Paweł Łoziński, with great talent, manages to strike up conversations with the people hurrying by – the humanity of filmmaking and storytelling is felt in almost every episode, and that's what makes this film so powerful. Suddenly passers-by become protagonists who actually have something to tell: talking frankly about their everyday joys and sorrows as well as the great dramas of their lives – even the meaning of life is literally unravelled in passing here.

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Paweł Łoziński asks questions, listens, does not look away, always charming and full of empathy, and with a mixture of humour and profundity he opens up whole worlds that surprise us because we had no idea they existed. This film connects us all, because on the street we all just become passers-by, though even a short, random chat is obviously capable of creating the magic of a sense of community, of sweetening the day and even changing lives.

The 2021 MDR Film Prize for an outstanding Eastern European film goes to “The Balcony Movie” by Paweł Łoziński for a film about the magic of the moment and the power of talking to each other. In that spirit: When was the last time you spoke to your neighbour or a stranger, just like that? Why not try it right now!

Film Prize Leipziger Ring

2.500 €

for an outstanding documentary film about human rights, democracy or civil engagement, granted by Stiftung Friedliche Revolution

Jury

Guido Erbrich, Germany

Bettina Röder, Germany

Siegbert Schefke, Germany

Rami Farah, Signe Byrge Sørensen

Our Memory Belongs to Us (Frihed, håb og andre synder – Den syriske revolution 10 år senere)

Denmark, France, Palestinian Territories 2021

Jury statement

The Film Prize “Leipziger Ring” aims to honour courageous journalists who documented the peaceful beginnings of the revolution in Syria in moving images. These are captivating images, largely forgotten: of courageous people who peacefully demonstrated for an end to the Assad regime in the streets and in front of the country's mosques.

But the images are also moving to us because they recall the Peaceful Revolution of 1989 in the GDR and remind us what could have happened when on 9 October 1989, in Leipzig and many other places in the GDR,

thousands of people went out into the streets, aware of the danger of being shot at. Unlike in Syria, this revolution remained peaceful.

What began ten years ago full of hope in Syria, too, was mercilessly annihilated by the brutality of the Assad regime and its foreign supporters. The dictator Assad is trying to erase even the memory of it. That makes it all the more important that courageous camera people and other journalists risk their lives to take a stand against forgetting with this film, and thus, despite the hopelessness of their actions, keep the hope alive that change is possible.

In doing so, the Syrian director Rami Farah and the three activists Yadan, Odai and Rani bear witness, with great courage, to the real catastrophe in Syria, which remains largely hidden from the global public. Despite the powerlessness, the film gives us courage by showing a perspective that reaches farther than the politics and propaganda experienced in reality.

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ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness

2.500 €

for a film in the German Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film

Jury

Martin Klindtworth, Germany
Carmen Salas Cárdenas, Peru
Milan Schnieder, Germany

Ole Jacobs, Arne Büttner

Nasim

Germany 2021

Jury statement

What makes us human? A name, a job, a signature?

Through its gentle and emphatic narrative style, the film allows us to feel with its protagonist. We experience the courage, despair and solidarity of an emancipated woman and caring mother. Despite the deprivations of life in a refugee camp on a Greek island, she never gives up the struggle for a future for herself and her family.

Her life stands for the many asylum seekers and migrants who endure inhumane conditions within the EU borders and can move neither forward nor back. Conditions for which our elected political representatives are responsible.

Goethe-Institut Documentary Film Prize

2.000 €

for the best current long German documentary film (75 min and longer) along with the purchase of the licence and the subtitling in eight languages

Jury

Marina May, Headquarters Munich
Maren Willkomm, Headquarters Munich
Julian Volz, Belgium

Diana El Jeiroudi

Republic of Silence

Germany, France, Syria, Qatar, Italy 2021

Jury statement

With a radically personal view, the director assembles different fragments from her life into an intimate cinematic diary. In doing so, she allows us an insight into the conflict-ridden history of Syria in the past 40 years that overwrites the stereotypical media images and thus opens up an alternative access. She uncompromisingly exposes the viewers to her wounds and traumas, but also to the violence of war. In a masterful montage, she interweaves the diverse possibilities offered by the medium of film. An appeal to the global public to look and not to remain silent in the face of war and dictatorship.

Young Eyes Film Award

2.000 €

granted by Leipziger Stadtbau AG, awarded by the Youth Jury in cooperation with Filmschule Leipzig e. V.

Jury

Marlene Gerhardt, Germany

Marla Heimpold, Germany

Nelly Hund, Germany

Laura Kanus, Germany

Lisa Reichel, Germany

Johanna Seggelke

Reality Must Be Addressed

Germany 2021

Jury statement

Reality Must Be Addressed shows two young women who travel through South Africa together without really knowing each other. In the course of their journey, a special bond develops between the two, in which trust plays an important role. When they meet again in Germany, their views of life have changed and they seem to be developing in different directions. The film is divided into three sections that reflect the different stages of their relationship. They get to know each other at the beginning of the journey, drift apart in Germany and become friends again at the end of the film. In each section you can understand how the two protagonists develop and how it changes their relationship. The music of the film underlined the strong feelings of the two very well and, together with an amateur-like and spontaneous cinematography, conveyed the feeling of being there. The film made us think about how quickly an intense relationship can develop, but also that it can be fragile, like a pane of glass that already has a crack. We were shown that it doesn't take elaborate plans to have great adventures and to travel. One doesn't have to structure one's whole life but should enjoy the moment and live in the here and now.

Prize of the Interreligious Jury

1.750 €

for a film in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film, donated by the Interreligious Roundtable Leipzig, the Leipzig Oratory and the VCH-Hotels Germany GmbH in the Verband Christlicher Hoteliers e. V. including the Hotel MICHAELIS in Leipzig

The Interreligious Jury is appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS.

Jury

Freek L. Bakker, Netherlands
Kadija Leclere, Belgien Belgium
Lothar Strüber, Germany
Daniel Wildmann, UK/Switzerland

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Cléo Cohen

May God Be with You (Que Dieu te protège)
France 2021

Jury statement

May God Be with You explores, in a beautifully cinematographic way, the silent transmission of human values and feelings of belonging within a Jewish family from the Maghreb. The film shows in subtle images that the individual's identity is never fixed but constantly in flux. Through the use of her body – and especially her hair - Cléo Cohen demonstrates the fluid identities of Jewish people living in France today. These identities are partially rooted in various religious and cultural traditions – be they Jewish, Christian or Muslim and May God Be with You examines the way in which Cohen's family develop their personal, perhaps even contradictory identities in a fascinating dialogue with their history and the cultural and religious legacies of their environment.

Prize of the International Film Critics (FIPRESCI Prize)

for a film in the International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film

Jury

Petra Meterc, Slovenia
Jérôme Michaud, Canada
Maximilian Schäffer, Germany

Sylvaine Dampierre

Words of Negroes (Paroles de nègres)
France 2020

Jury statement

For questioning the means of production in the context of hard physical labour and the perception of freedom and dignity in a globalized world.
For giving her protagonists autonomous voices.
For finding a microcosm where words of the past echo into the future.

mephisto 97.6 Award

for the best animated film

Jury

Tim Puls, Germany
Moritz Schlenstedt, Germany
Julia Wegner, Germany

Mahboobeh Kalae
The Fourth Wall (Divare chaharom)
Iran 2021

Jury statement

The Fourth Wall tells the story of a boy in search of a way out of his stammer, which is found in a creative blasting of space. The film shows a subtle negotiation of family violence, of that which can be spoken or whispered, of dreams beyond the boundaries of the home.

The viewers are lead through multi-dimensional images that surprise them again and again with remarkable stylistic means. The Fourth Wall is astonishing because the film finds images for the unspeakable that are all the more touching in their apparent innocence.

Gedanken-Aufschluss

awarded by a jury of prisoners of the Juvenile Detention Centre Regis-Breitingen

Florence Mialhe
The Crossing (Die Odyssee)
Germany, Czech Republic, France 2020

Jury statement

The film is about two siblings who are separated from their parents when they are children. This happens after their village is plundered by soldiers and they are forced to flee. In order to be allowed to live in peace at last, they must walk a long and hard path through a country marked by war that will last until their teenage years. The only thing left to them on this path are they themselves.

What we found particularly interesting about this film is that it can very easily be associated with the current refugee situation in many parts of the world, which thus affects us all. It is very easy to imagine yourself in such a situation through this film.

We also liked the artistic structure. The captivating style of painting contributes to the tension. The subject of the story was portrayed in a thrilling, credible and realistic way.

DOK Industry Awards

D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize

post-production grant of 10,000 €
donated by D-Facto Motion GmbH

President's Tailor – From Auschwitz to the White House by Rick Minnich
(Germany, USA)

Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director

5,000 €
donated by the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism

Broken Flower by Sarvnaz Alambeigi (Iran)

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Current Time TV Award

1.500 €

donated by Current Time TV

Cadillac Dreams by Elene Mikaberidze (Georgia, France)

The EWA Diverse Voices Award

1.000 € and a year-long mentorship by DOK Leipzig

donated by EWA – European Women's Audiovisual Network

The Woman Who Poked the Leopard by Patience Nitumwesiga (Uganda)

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award

along with a festival strategy consultation by Square Eyes

donated by Square Eyes

Me & Her by Eldar Basmanov and Ahmed Fouad Ragab (Estonia, Russia, Egypt)

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