

“Anhell69” Awarded Golden Dove in DOK Leipzig International Competition

Press Release
22 October 2022

Golden Dove in the German Competition for “Dead Birds Flying High” | Audience Jury Honours „Three Women“ with Golden Dove



DOK Leipzig 2022 | Anhell69 (director: Theo Montoya)

The awards of the 65th edition of DOK Leipzig were presented on Saturday at the Schaubühne Lindenfels in Leipzig. Following the week-long festival, a selection of the award-winning films will be shown online throughout Germany in the DOK Stream from 24 to 30 October.

The **Golden Dove in the International Competition** went to Theo Montoya for “Anhell69”. This co-production from Colombia, Romania, France and Germany portrays a queer young generation in a Colombia marked by violence and repression, in a very real ghost story told in atmospheric images. “A cinematic slipstream of consciousness fuelled by human nature’s pleasure and death drives” is what the jury called it, adding: “An ode to an ill-fated city and a tribute to one’s community, it harnesses the power of resilience and transgression to inhabit the world with fluidity, fearlessness and radical urgency.” The award-winning long films in the International Competition were chosen by Philippa Kowarsky, Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, Shireen Seno, Ula Stöckl and Andrei Tănăsescu. The 10,000-euro Golden Dove is sponsored by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk. The award was presented by Jana Brandt, Director of the MDR Programme Directorate Halle.

The **Silver Dove** for best long documentary or animated film by an up-and-coming director in the **International Competition** was awarded to Faustine Cros for the Belgian-French production “A Life Like Any Other”, a portrait of a woman at odds with her role as a mother and the demands of motherhood. “In seeking to understand a family’s pain, this film gives voice to the primal scream of women, wives, and mothers everywhere,” the jury stated. The 6,000-euro award was sponsored by 3sat. Johannes Dicke, Head of Programming at 3sat, presented the award to the filmmaker.

In the **International Competition Short Film**, Diana Cam Van Nguyen, Rocco Di Mento and Tina Smrekar chose the recipients of the Golden Doves, each worth 3,000 euros, and the newly created Silver Dove, worth 1,500 euros. “Will You Look at Me” by Shuli Huang was honoured

65th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film
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as **best documentary film**. This film shows how the queer filmmaker's lifestyle collides with the expectations held by his mother and by Chinese society. The award for **best animated film** went to Marta Magnuska for "Misaligned", which depicts scenes of a marriage as a minimalist, vibrating black-and-white animation.

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The **Silver Dove** for the best short documentary or animated film by an up-and-coming director, sponsored by the Sächsische Landesanstalt für privaten Rundfunk und neue Medien (Saxon State Institute for Private Broadcasting and New Media, SLM), was awarded to the South Korean animated film "Persona" by Sujin Moon about beauty ideals and the compulsion to fit in. The President of the Medienrat SLM, Prof. Markus Heinker, delivered welcoming remarks in person at the award ceremony. The films that have earned Golden Doves in the International Competitions Long and Short Film qualify for nomination for the annual Academy Awards®, provided they meet the Academy's standards. The winners in the International Competitions were chosen by Philippa Kowarsky, Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, Shireen Seno, Ula Stöckl and Andrei Tănăsescu. Special Mentions from the jury went to Matthias Joulaud and Lucien Roux for their short documentary "Ramboy" and Sasha Kulak for the long documentary "A Hawk as Big as a Horse".

In the **German Competition**, filmmaker Sönje Storm was awarded the **Golden Dove** (3,000 euros) for "Dead Birds Flying High". In this documentary, Storm goes through old boxes left behind by her great-grandfather, Jürgen Friedrich Mahrt. This farmer and naturalist documented the local flora and fauna with the aid of photography and taxidermy and thus already observed the extinction of species as well as harbingers of today's climate crisis in the early 20th century. "Image composition, sound design and editing merge into a coherent work of art that reflects both the dramatic changes in nature and the fatal influence of humans on their environment," said the jury members Andreas Kötzing, Sabine Rollberg and Marie Wilke.

The **Silver Dove** in the **German Competition Short Film**, which includes prize money of 1,500 euros and is sponsored by IG Metall Leipzig, went to Jonathan Brunner for "Border Conversations", a film that follows Polish activists in the border region between Belarus and Poland in the winter of 2021.

In the **Competition for the Audience Award**, the **Golden Dove** including 3,000 euros went to "Three Women" by Maksym Melnyk. In encounters with three independent women, Melnyk documents rural life in the Ukrainian village of Stuzhytsya near the EU border. "This film brings us images of joie de vivre and lightness. Images that we don't often see coming from that country at the moment. It creates connections and unites people through the screen," according to the statement by the audience jury.

The **Silver Dove** was awarded to Olesya Shchukina for the Russian-French production "Lada, Ivan's Sister". This animated documentary tells of the transition of a woman who was born a biological male. The award, which includes 1,500 euros, was sponsored by the Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e.V. At the award ceremony, the association was represented by Christiane Wilhelm, who delivered remarks to the audience. This year's audience jury was comprised of film enthusiasts and friends of the festival David Chazarenc, Margherita Gallano, Erik Laube, Paula Mecklenburg, Annegret Meder and Barbara Tennstedt.

Partnership Awards for documentary and animated films in competition

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Earlier, on Saturday afternoon, nine Partnership Awards were presented at the Schaubühne Lindenfels.

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The **DEFA Sponsoring Prize**, which includes 4,000 euros granted by the DEFA Foundation, went to Maksym Melnyk for “Three Women”.

The 3,000-euro **MDR Film Prize** for an outstanding eastern European documentary film was awarded to Marek Kozakiewicz for “Silent Love”. This film tells the story of a woman who attempts to obtain custody of her brother in a conservative part of Poland and to live with her partner in an alternative family arrangement.

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 “Pastor Lothar Stops”, Tilman König’s documentary about his father, the former Jena pastor and left-wing activist Lothar König.

“Pastor Lothar Stops” also received the **ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness**, which includes 1,500 euros in prize money.

The 2,000-euro **Young Eyes Film Award**, granted by Leipziger Stadtbau AG, went to “Blue Sky White Clouds” by Astrid Menzel. In this film, the director takes her grandmother, who suffers from dementia, on a canoe trip in northern Germany. 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 “A Life Like Any Other” by Faustine Cros. 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)** was awarded to “One Mother” by Mickaël Bandela, an autobiographical and visually ingenious study of growing up in a foster family.

The **mephisto 97.6 Award** went to “Sliver Cave” by Caipei Cai. In this short film, bizarre animations on a metal plate are set to free jazz.

The **Gedanken-Aufschluss award** went to “Yonii” by Julius Gintaras Blum, a portrait of a Swabian-Moroccan actor and rapper. The prize is awarded by a jury of prisoners at the Juvenile Detention Centre Regis-Breitingen.

Awards presented as part of DOK Industry

Six awards have already been presented during the week of the festival as part of the industry platform DOK Industry.

Awarded in the DOK Co-Pro Market:

Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director (along with 5,000 euros): “A Bit of a Stranger” by Svitlana Lishchynska (Ukraine)

The prize is donated by the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism.

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Current Time TV Award (along with 1,500 euros): “Blum” by Jasmila Žbanić (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany)
The prize is donated by Current Time TV.

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The **EWA Diverse Voices Award** (along with 1,000 euros, a year-long mentorship by DOK Leipzig and an EWA membership): “In the Light of Darkness” (India)

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

The **Unifrance Doc Award** (along with subtitling services sponsored by TitraFilm and a Unifrance membership for its French producer): “Under the Dance Floor” by Sára Timár (Hungary, France)

Awarded at DOK Preview Germany:

D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize (post-production grant of 10,000 euros): “300 Trillion” by Rudolph Herzog (Germany)

The prize is donated by D-Facto Motion GmbH.

Awarded at DOK Short n’ Sweet:

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award (along with a tailor-made consultation on festival strategy by Square Eyes): “The Art of Detaching One’s Memory” by Jan Carlo Natividad (Philippines)

The prize is donated by Square Eyes.

A total of 24 prizes were awarded at DOK Leipzig. During the festival week, 255 films and extended reality works from 55 countries were screened in the Leipzig venues.

After the festival ends, eleven award-winning films can still be seen online throughout Germany in DOK Stream from 24 October to 30 October 2022, including six recipients of Golden and Silver Doves. The films in DOK Stream are “Dead Birds Flying High”, “A Hawk as Big as a Horse”, “One Mother”, “Three Women”, “Silent Love”, “Misaligned”, “Sliver Cave”, “Border Conversations”, “Lada, Ivan’s Sister”, “Will You Look at Me” and “Yonii”. Online ticket sales will start at 10 am on Monday, 24 October. The ticket price per long film or short film reel is 5 euros.

The award-winning film in the International Competition, “Anhell69”, will be released in cinemas across Germany in 2023.

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](#)

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

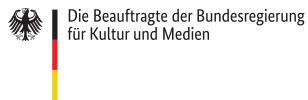
Information about all of DOK Leipzig’s juries can be found here:

[Awards & Juries](#)

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International Competition Long Documentary and Animated Film

Award Winners 2022

Jury

Philippa Kowarsky, Israel/UK
Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, Lesotho
Shireen Seno, Philippines
Ula Stöckl, Germany
Andrei Tănăsescu, Romania/Canada

Golden Dove

10,000 €
granted by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk

Theo Montoya

Anhell69

Colombia, Romania, France, Germany 2022

A cinematic slipstream of consciousness fuelled by human nature's pleasure and death drives.

An ode to an ill-fated city and a tribute to one's community, it harnesses the power of resilience and transgression to inhabit the world with fluidity, fearlessness and radical urgency.

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.

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)

Faustine Cros

A Life Like Any Other (Une vie comme une autre)

Belgium, France 2022

For taking a bold look at her family, while yearning to understand her mother – any mother;

For learning to see her mother the way her mother sees herself – any woman;

For learning a new narrative about a family and herself.

In seeking to understand a family's pain, this film gives voice to the primal scream of women, wives, and mothers everywhere.

Special Mention

Sasha Kulak

A Hawk as Big as a Horse (Yastreb razmerom s loshad')

France 2022

For straddling the threshold between reality and our imagination, it reminds us of the malleability of cinematic form. Rubbing elbows with our subconscious, it dares to manifest dreams – as only cinema can do.
International Competition Short Documentary and Animated Film

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Jury
Diana Cam Van Nguyen, Czech Republic
Rocco Di Mento, Italy/Germany
Tina Smrekar, Slovenia

Award Winners 2022

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Golden Dove Short Documentary Film
3,000 €

Shuli Huang
Will You Look at Me (Dang wo wang xiang ni de shi hou)
China 2022

Since the need to be loved and accepted is part of our human nature, we were extremely touched to experience how the filmmaker opened the door into a crucial coming of age moment, within a family anchored in traditional values. This film translated a personal story into a universal matter of acceptance, of a mother's guilt and the boy's determination to finally live his own life.

Golden Dove Short Animated Film
3,000 €

Marta Magnuska
Misaligned (Koniunkcja)
Poland, Latvia 2022

When does the significant other become just the other? The awarded film uses a white canvas to give us a glimpse into moments, into duration of a love possibly gone by. With a touch of colour within a black line it asks the question of not letting go, of two people drawing a circle around each other and around themselves.

All 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.

Silver Dove
1,500 €
granted by Sächsische Landesanstalt für privaten Rundfunk und neue Medien (Saxon State Institute for Private Broadcasting and New Media, SLM) for the best short documentary or animated film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works after completing their education)

Sujin Moon
Persona (Gakjil)
South Korea 2022

This film gave us an insight into the duality of growing up in a shiny, colourful but merciless digital world. A disturbing and confident animation, this film reflects how we have to pretend to survive the everyday life. The film impressed us by the strong visual storytelling and we can't wait to see where the filmmaker's next film will bring us.

Special Mention

Matthias Joulaud, Lucien Roux
Ramboy
Switzerland 2022

For the ability of portraying a world that maybe has already disappeared, for the ability to capture stunning images and for the ability to express a tenderness that not everyone of us had the possibility to experience.

German Competitions Documentary and Animated Film

Jury
Andreas Kötzing, Germany
Sabine Rollberg, Germany
Marie Wilke, Germany

Golden Dove Long Documentary and Animated Film
3,000 €

Sönje Storm
Dead Birds Flying High (Die toten Vögel sind oben)
Germany 2022

What could be more boring than a film about taxidermied butterflies? About stuffed birds? Or almost 100-year-old photos of farmhands in the North German provinces? This film demonstrates the precise opposite: The director and her team manage impressively to create a breathtakingly exciting film from her grandfather's natural history collection. Image composition, sound design and editing merge into a coherent work of art that reflects both the dramatic changes in nature and the fatal influence of humans on their environment.

Silver Dove Short Documentary and Animated Film
1,500 €
granted by IG Metall Leipzig

Jonathan Brunner
Border Conversations
Germany 2022

Female Polish activists in the border region between Belarus and Poland in the winter of 2021. Time and again the women drive off to help refugees in the forest with food and clothing. Darkness, driving snow, blue lights in the distance. It is an almost surreally oppressive landscape and silence which the film depicts with minimal means. The desperate situation of the refugees becomes palpable in text messages that break off again and again. Through its silent intensity and focus, the film manages to bring home the monstrosity of the conditions. It is a haunting document of the time – and a plea for humanity.

Competition for the Audience Award

Jury
David Chazarenc, Germany
Margherita Gallano, Italy

Erik Laube, Germany
Paula Mecklenburg, Germany
Annegret Meder, Germany
Barbara Tennstedt, Germany

Award Winners 2022

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Golden Dove Long Documentary and Animated Film
3,000 €

Maksym Melnyk
Three Women (Drei Frauen)
Deutschland 2022

We award the Golden Dove to a film that brings us images of joie de vivre and lightness. Images that we don't often see coming from that country at the moment. It creates connections and unites people through the screen. We were very convinced by the way the filmmaker made his relationship with the protagonists visible. We wish this film to make as many people as possible laugh, with its warm-hearted stories that would otherwise never have left a wonderful corner of the world.

Silver Dove Short Documentary and Animated Film
1,500 €
granted by Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e. V.

Olesya Shchukina
Lada, Ivan's Sister (Lada, sestra Ivana)
Russia, France 2021

We are pleased to be able to distinguish an intelligent film that has inspired us with its creative portrayal of human emotions and interactions. With lightness and humour, it follows a person on their path to finding themselves and towards inner peace. An enchanting film, a film that succeeds in illuminating a complex subject for the audience through playful animations. A film for the heart.

Partnership Awards

Award Winners 2022

DEFA Sponsoring Prize

4,000 €

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

Jury

Andreas Kötzing, Germany

Sabine Rollberg, Germany

Marie Wilke, Germany

Maksym Melnyk

Three Women (Drei Frauen)

Germany 2022

With many offenses against the rules of the classical school of documentary filmmaking, this film nevertheless – or perhaps because of this – manages to thrill us and trigger our unconditional desire to travel at once to this West Ukrainian village threatened by extinction, in order to perhaps have our own car blessed by the priest, too, to find bear shit and definitely to sit down at one of its hospitable tables to celebrate with the women of the village. What is certain is that it required this young director's outstanding gift of observation to bring us so close to this gem, and we wish for many other films by him about wrongly overlooked places.

MDR Film Prize

3,000 €

for an outstanding Eastern European documentary film

Jury

Thomas Beyer, Germany

Ann-Kathrin Horn, Germany

Sylva Kleemann, Germany

Claritta Kratochwil, Germany

Paweł Łoziński, Poland

Anja Zhukova, Germany

Marek Kozakiewicz

Silent Love

Poland, Germany 2022

This year's award-winning film of the MDR Film Prize is a film about love. This love is a secret one, unwanted, intolerable, difficult yet strong and very beautiful. It is a delicate film about tender feelings with great protagonists who are lovable and believable from the first film shots. Both main female characters have an instinct, courage, wisdom and strength that we often lack in our lives. Their family life is proof that love has no boundaries if you have the courage to trust. It is stronger than all difficulties in the hostile world around them.

Film Prize Leipziger Ring

2,500 €

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

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Jury

Thomas Bohne, Germany

Carsten Möller, Germany

Bettina Röder, Germany

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Tilman König

Pastor Lothar Stops (König hört auf)

Germany 2022

Stiftung Friedliche Revolution distinguishes a documentary film about a man who is full of doubts and torn. A non-conformist spirit before 1989, a productive troublemaker until today. A Thuringian youth pastor retires and keeps looking for alternatives. The camera captures the protagonist's restlessness: Almost prophetically, he exhorts us to say goodbye to false certainties. The film is about Lothar König. In his unrelenting fight against the right, he urges us not to resort to violence and to preserve human dignity.

Young Eyes Film Award

2,000 €

granted by Leipziger Stadtbau AG, awarded by the Youth Jury of Filmschule Leipzig e. V.

Jury

Emil Bauer, Germany

Lana Böttger, Germany

Maximilian Herzig, Germany

Ludewig Rank, Germany

Amon Wild, Germany

Astrid Menzel

Blue Sky White Clouds (Blauer Himmel Weiße Wolken)

Germany 2022

After Astrid's grandfather, called „E.O.“, dies, his 86-year-old wife can no longer cope with living alone in their house. Astrid does not want her grandma, who suffers from severe dementia, to become lonely in the nursing home and wants to look after her more. That's why she plans to take a several-day canoeing trip with her confused grandmother and her brother. We were able to experience this as if we had been there. This is done by atmospheric shots of the landscapes and many close-ups. During the tour, the audience become really aware of the grandmother's advancing dementia. She has difficulties remembering her life and has mood swings and problems of trust, which the director shows us through metaphors, for example the capricious weather. At the end of the trip, she has already forgotten almost everything that happened over the past few days, but the trip remains a beautiful family memory for Astrid and her brother. Since there are also people in our families that suffer from dementia, the film touched us deeply and made us think. While watching the film we realise that maintaining ties to and spending time with one's family are very important and not to be taken for granted.

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

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The Interreligious Jury is appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS.

Jury

Karin Becker, Germany

Jihane Bougrine, Morocco

Jacques Champeaux, France

Nicola Galliner, Germany

Faustine Cros

A Life Like Any Other (Une vie comme une autre)

Belgium, France 2022

This is a soulful and subtle movie about feminism where intimacy never disturbs the message, where the eye and the heart of the daughter never dominates the vision of the director. The movie deconstructs with virtuosity the seeming idyll of a family, how it is presented to us in old family video footage through old family films and photos and recent interviews. The director makes visible the often overseen and disturbing reality of traditional motherhood.

ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness

1,500 €

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

Jury

Martin Klindtworth, Germany

Carmen Salas Cárdenas, Peru

Milan Schnieder, Germany

Tilman König

Pastor Lothar Stops (König hört auf)

Germany 2022

This film provides an authentic insight into the life of a man who lives democracy, who fights tirelessly for togetherness and against right-wing radicalism – with young people in his community whom he inspires to do so, regardless of whether they believe in God or not. The film is a wake-up call, a challenge to all of us, and asks the question why we are not where we could be.

Prize of the International Film Critics (FIPRESCI Prize)

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

Jury

Peter Kremski, Deutschland

Mohamed Tarek, Egypt

Müge Turan, Turkey

Mickaël Bandela
One Mother (Une mère)
France 2022

Award Winners 2022

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The FIPRESCI Jury gives the International Critics Award to an autobiographical venture that follows a man's life starting in France and ending in Africa. We are moved by the filmmaker's own attentive presence, which plays an almost therapeutic role in creating a safe, mediated space for himself and his two mothers to share their feelings. This is not only a powerful film for its skills in conveying empathy but also offering a humane approach to the idea of family and a path to reconciliation and healing.

mephisto 97.6 Award
for the best short animated film

Jury
Clara Haferkamp, Germany
Yiling Pan, Germany
Nils Wilken, Germany

Caibei Cai
Sliver Cave (Yin mu)
China 2022

In a competition full of innovative ideas and personal stories, one film stood out for us, especially for its craftsmanship and its bizarre beauty. A film that offers stories but at the same time remains vague enough to challenge the audience. We were thrilled and confused, fascinated and captivated till the end.

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

Julius Gintaras Blum
Yonii
Germany 2022

The images on display were poetry for the senses. A wanderer between cultures, on a permanent quest to bring the best to light and to whom his mother was very dear. Insights that always grabbed the audience and touched them deep inside. Its emotional quality and the performance of the cast have made "Yonii" our favourite.

DOK Industry Awards

Award Winners 2022

DOK Preview Germany

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D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize

post-production grant of 10,000 euros

The prize is donated by: D-Facto Motion GmbH

300 Trillion

Rudolph Herzog

Germany

DOK Co-Pro Market

Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director

5,000 €

The prize is donated by the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism

Jury

Sarah Anderson, USA

Vesna Cudic, UK

Babette Dieu, Germany, France

A Bit of a Stranger

Svitlana Lishchynska

Ukraine

Current Time TV Award

1,500 €

The prize is donated by: Current Time TV

Blum

Jasmila Žbanić

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany

The EWA Diverse Voices Award

1,000 € and a year-long mentorship by DOK Leipzig

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

In the Light of Darkness

India

Unifrance Doc Award

Subtitling services sponsored by TitraFilm and a Unifrance membership for its French producer

The prize is donated by: Unifrance

Jury

Sarah Anderson, USA

Vesna Cudic, UK

Babette Dieu, Germany, France

Under the Dance Floor

Little Bus Production and Alter Ego Production

Hungary, France

DOK Short n' Sweet

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award

a tailor-made consultation on festival strategy by Square Eyes
The prize is donated by: Square Eyes

The Art of Detaching One's Memory
Jan Carlo Natividad
Philippines

Award Winners 2022

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