International Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Diana El Jeiroudi
Ivan Ramljak
Raul Niño Zambrano

Golden Dove Feature-Length Film

10,000 €
granted by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk

Andrei Kutsila
Letters from the Silenced Country Listy
Poland, Lithuania, Germany 2026

Through the gripping, alternating experiences of men and women, some who speak, some who draw, some who fight, the film turns testimony into resistance. From a filmmaker who refuses to let a country disappear from view comes a film that takes us inside a place beyond our reach with cinematic resolve and clarity.

Golden Dove Short Film

3,000 €

Laura Poitras, Rachel Lauren Mueller
They're Here
USA 2026

An urgent and all-encompassing film, masterfully made as an organic part of a community coming together to face, resist, and hold accountable the state violence that targets the most vulnerable in our society.

The winning films of the Golden Doves in the International Competition Documentary Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS® provided that the films otherwise comply with the Academy's rules.

Silver Dove Feature-Length Film

6,000 €
granted by 3sat for the best feature-length documentary film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works)

Asmahan Bkerat
Concrete Land Tiyaha
Jordan, Palestine 2026

A film by a young talent who knows where and how to place her camera, at a respectful, intimate distance from her subjects. She lets us see past the barriers of skin colour, class and prejudice, and understand what it means to forcefully give up one's roots.

Silver Dove Short Film
1,500 €
granted by the Independent Saxon State Media Agency (SLM) for the best short documentary film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works)

Florinda Ciucio
in memory of
Belgium 2026

What seems a simple idea becomes the very nerve of rebuilding against the erasure of a place and of its memories. Here, drawing becomes an act of active resistance.

International Competition Animated Film

Jury

Waltraud Grausgruber
Edmunds Jansons
Matea Radic

Golden Dove Feature-Length Film
3,000 €

Chris Sullivan
The Orbit of Minor Satellites
USA, Japan 2026

A remarkably personal and complex cinematic journey that takes us from the fragile relationship between a psychiatrist and his long-time patient into the cold and lonely depths of space.
Like minor satellites, its characters orbit one another, searching for connection in an indifferent universe.
Moving fluidly between reality and imagination, the film reveals a fragmented inner world where loneliness and despair coexist with extraordinary tenderness.
A film that reminds us that love has roots, and even after the longest winter, it may grow again into a flower, or perhaps a potato.

Golden Dove Short Film
1,500 €

Alexandre Siqueira
Terminal
Portugal, France, Spain 2026

With extraordinary visual tenderness and poetic sensitivity, this film finds beauty in the deepest existential questions. At its heart lies the profoundly vulnerable act of letting go an intimate struggle between love, loss, and the dignity of choice. Through rich visual metaphors, the film creates a world where memories and moments in time intertwine, offering a glimpse of eternity as a space of possibility and hope.

A deeply human and profoundly moving film that invites us to reconsider the meaning of terminal not merely as an ending, but as a return home.

The winning film of the Golden Dove Short Film in the International Competition Animated Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS® provided that the film otherwise complies with the Academy's rules.

Special Mention

Mamuka Tkeshelashvili
When the Sea Was Calm
Georgia 2026

A film that serves as a powerful reminder. Through a remarkably subtle, precise, and tender reconstruction of childhood memories, it confronts us with the injustices of the past and reminds us that the world is still full of unresolved conflicts.
Behind the ambitions and political deals of great powers lie the lives, dreams, and memories of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people. The film reminds us of the importance of preserving not only our personal memories, but also our collective memory, including the traumas we share.

German Competition Documentary Film

Jury

David Bernet
Stefanie Eckert
Adele Kohout

Golden Dove Feature-Length Film

10,000 €
donated by Doris Apell-Kölmel, Michael Kölmel

Peter Badel, Chris Wright
Transition Übergang
Germany 2026

This film is a requiem for documentary filmmaker Thomas Heise and at the same time a chronicle of recent German history. We come to know Heise as a person who actively sought to artistically explore the social reality surrounding him but also found himself driven to it by political forces. The filmmakers take up Thomas Heise's subjective perspectives and use them to compose a cinematic ode about time and transience.

Golden Dove Short Film

1,500 €

Rosa Gocht
Hello Debus Hallo Debus
Germany 2026

In the competition selection there were many short films that establish the film's connection to reality through text and voice-over, while the visual design has a more metaphorical character. One short film takes this approach furthest, creating a surreal, ironic visual world to convey a pain we are all familiar with. Though the starting point of answering machine recordings is very concrete, it opens a space for a wide variety of interpretations.

Special Mention

Rebecca Zehr
The Core Der Kern
Germany 2026

A filmmaker's candid and unflinching exploration of her own illness. The author steps outside herself and creates the portrait of a woman whose life is falling apart. For her artistic execution, Rebecca Zehr is awarded a Special Mention of the jury for her short film The Core.

Audience Competition

Jury
The whole audience has decided on the winner of the Audience Award in an online vote after the cinema screenings.

Golden Dove
3,000 €
granted pro by Leipziger Stiftung

Lauren Dällenbach
Nicole Nicole
Switzerland, France 2026

Partnership Awards

DEFA Sponsoring Prize
4,000 €
granted by the DEFA Foundation for an outstanding feature-length documentary film in the German Competition Documentary Film

Jury

David Bernet
Stefanie Eckert
Adele Kohout

Tete Hoffmann
My Brilliant Father Mein genialer Vater
Germany 2026

Documentary films that are humorous and entertaining are unusual. Especially when they deal with serious subjects. This film portrays a daughter's relationship with her writer-father who is slowly slipping into dementia.
The filmmaker finds a dramaturgically astute and sensitive way to combine the arguments between her and her father. A brilliant tapestry of everyday worries, attempts to reconnect or resolve issues – and a unique theatrical interplay that belongs only to those two.

MDR Film Prize

3,000 €
for an outstanding Eastern European documentary film

Jury

Thomas Beyer
Johannes Dicke
Sylva Kleemann
Claritta Kratochwil
Annett Meltschack
Anastasiya Miroshnichenko
Anja Zhukova

Andrei Kutsila
Letters from the Silenced Country Listy
Poland, Lithuania, Germany 2026

This film is an outstanding example of how documentary cinema can reveal the fate of an entire nation through personal stories. The director masterfully combines different forms of storytelling, creating a rich cinematic language that brings invisible lives and silenced voices to the screen. Rooted in the reality of political repression, the film explores universal themes of freedom, separation, love, and human connection.

Film Prize Leipziger Ring

2,500 €
for an outstanding documentary film about human rights, democracy or civil engagement, granted by Stiftung Friedliche Revolution

Jury

Christian Fuchs
Tilman König
Ute Lieschke

Barbara Kopple
Union Town
USA 2026

This film draws you in from the very first second. It shows people who daily deliver to our doorsteps under precarious conditions, and not just in New York. The workers discover their strength in community. Using humour and powerful images, 80-year-old Barbara Kopple masterfully recounts the Deliveristas' anger against Amazon and the like. A gripping film that really delivers.

Prize of the Interreligious Jury

2,000 €
for a film in the International Competition Documentary Film, donated by Hotel Michaelis (VCH-Hotels) in Leipzig as well as the Interreligious Round Table and the Oratorium Leipzig

The Interreligious Jury is appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS.

Jury

Alexandra Ell
Joël Friso
Aida Schlaepfer Alhassani
Teresa R. Tunay

Kamila Serwicka
Blossoming A teraz wiosna
Poland 2026

For its courageous and deeply humane portrayal of a family living with the consequences of abuse and addiction. With remarkable intimacy and cinematic sensitivity, Kamila Serwicka follows five women across three generations as they break the silence and reclaim their voices, dignity, and freedom. The film reveals how vulnerability and lived spirituality can open paths towards forgiveness and renewed hope.

Special Mention of the Interreligious Jury

Helena Třeštíková
Bára – Diary of a Rockstar Bára Basiková
Czech Republic 2026

For its sensitive long-term portrait of a celebrated artist, that reveals the vulnerability and shows the resilience behind the public rockstar persona. With great respect, Helena Třeštíková follows Bára through personal crises and illness. The film transforms private suffering into a universal reflection on love, dignity, joy, and the enduring power of artistic expression.

ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness

2,000 €
for a film in the German Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Julia Cruschwitz
Doria Jeanne Nollez
Carmen Salas

Jasmine Alakari
Free Zone
Germany 2026

This film doesn't show a hero or a happy end. Moreover it reminds us that our idea of humanity only goes as far as we see it in the people that surround us. Just as much as our notion of violence only goes as far as we're willing to deal with it. In this film, the common narrative that those without a European passport are outsiders and eternal victims, is broken. The focus lies on the fundamental human right to autonomy and the right not only to dream, but the right to act upon those dreams; for a better, equal world.
In light of the current radical escalation of violence in Europe against those seeking refuge, this film is more urgent than ever and makes it clear that a true change in history can only occur through each and every one of us.

Young Eyes Film Award

2,000 €
granted by Rahn Dittlich Group's European Foundation for Education and Culture, awarded by the Youth Jury in cooperation with LFD – Fachstelle für Medien und Bildung

Christos Stefanou
Moving Sisters
Greece 2026

To a film whose subject matter is exceptionally important and deeply moving. It makes us see our everyday lives through different eyes.

Prize of the International Film Critics (FIPRESCI Prize)

for a feature-length film in the International Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Igor Angjelkov
Marco D'Agostino
Matthias Dell

Giuseppe Schillaci
Auber 89
France, Italy 2026

This is a film that achieves the remarkable feat of being both intellectually complex and widely accessible. It tells deeply human stories while simultaneously engaging with political issues that could hardly be more relevant today.
Through an outstanding piece of archival research, the film reconstructs the contradictions of capitalist modernity: progress and decay, migration and isolation, exploitation and emancipation. The story unfolds through the eyes of an eloquent and empathetic protagonist.

mephisto 97.6 Award

for the best short animated film

Jury

Ricarda Angela Hamperl
Chantal Kupper
Paul-Luca Matthes

Mamuka Tkeshelashvili
When the Sea Was Calm
Georgia 2026

The detailed and hand-crafted animation of this film is absolutely mesmerizing. With no dialogue at all it tells a captivating and poetic story about childhood, love and exile. It balances the tragic reality of the massacre of Sokhumi with beautiful memories of this place, with the longing to be back and with hope. And in a time where so many people around the world experience war and displacement, this is a really compelling approach, deserving of an award.

film.land.sachsen Prize for Film Culture in Rural Areas

in cooperation with Filmverband Sachsen e. V.

Jury

Alina Cyranek
Mario Kegel
Barbara Wallbraun

Dieter Schumann
Garden of Hope Garten der Hoffnung
Germany 2026

How can you make things fit together that do not fit at all? This film is an inspiration: A narrative condensed in a limited space, the film is a great motivation for becoming active, for neighbourliness, for a self-empowerment to be seen and heard. A social utopia in eastern Germany, in the shadow of a chestnut tree, which offers us ideas and hope for a new kind of community.

Gedanken-Aufschluss

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

Janis Westphal
Last Round Haus der Trinker
Germany 2026

Director Janis Westphal portrays a homeless shelter that is different from others of its kind. What sets it apart is that drinking alcohol is permitted and accepted and that abstinence is not enforced. In this way, the team creates stability for the residents and a place where they can stay without being judged – maybe even for the rest of their lives. Even in the event of relapses, the team supports the residents, seeking for ways to support them instead of judging them. The team is there for the residents through loss, loneliness, relapses and everyday problems. Survival is nothing spectacular here, it is part of daily life. The team is not trying to fix the people but to sustain them - every day.
“Last Round“ is an intimate, observational portrait of addiction, homelessness and the quiet consequences of male role models and asks a simple and yet radical question: What does help mean when it demands nothing in return?

DOK Industry Awards

DOK Co-Pro Market

Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director

along with a €5,000 prize, sponsored by the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism (SMWK).

Jūratė Samulionytė
Two of Us
Lithuania

Produced by
Dagnė Vildžiūnaitė, Danielė Kunčinaitė (Just a moment)

Jury

Beke Rienitz
Mónica Hernández Rejón
Stephanie Fuchs

Verità Films Award for Best Project

worth €2,000, celebrates outstanding creative vision for a documentary with universal appeal and the best potential to succeed globally across platforms and at major festivals.

Rami Farah
A1
France, Denmark

Produced by
Karina Si Ahmed (Hauteville Productions)
Co-Produced by
Sallah-Eddine Ben Jamaa (Les Films Grain De Sable)
Signe Byrge Sørensen (Final Cut for Real)

Jury

Jasmina Vignjevic

Deutsche Welle Award

The Deutsche Welle Award, worth €1,500, honors a project that addresses the major issues of our time - human rights, climate change, migration, etc. It supports filmmakers and producers in every stage of development, production, or post-production.

The prize is donated by: Deutsche Welle

Isaac Knights-Washbourn
Fallout
UK, Japan

Produced by
Nadja Lapcevic (Varda Pictures)
Co-Produced by
Emi Ueyama (ARTicle Films)

Jury

Elisabeth Lehmann
Stefan Neumann

Jacob Burns Film Center Residency Award

Jacob Burns Film Center offers 2–4 week residencies for filmmakers at any stage of their project.
The selected team (up to two members) receive a $500 weekly stipend, travel support, housing, and access to the JBFC arthouse cinema and Media Arts Lab with editing, audio, animation, and screening facilities.

Rami Farah
A1
Frankreich, Dänemark

Produziert von
Karina Si Ahmed (Hauteville Productions)
Ko-Produziert von
Sallah-Eddine Ben Jamaa (Les Films Grain De Sable)
Signe Byrge Sørensen (Final Cut for Real)

Jury
Eric Hynes

No Nation Films Fellowship Award

provides a six-month fellowship to exceptional documentary film teams from around the globe who find themselves grappling with challenges and in vulnerable circumstances. The Fellowship features an all-encompassing mentorship and consultancy package customized to best support and guide the film teams during development or production stages.

Sophie Ataya
Who We Are
Germany

Produced by
Marion Schmidt, Thomas Kaske (SEERA Films)

Jury
Orwa Nyrabia
Diana El Jeiroudi

Unifrance Doc Award

Subtitles creation (to the value of €2,300) sponsored by TitraFilm and one Unifrance membership (value of €1,590) for the French producer attached to the project.

Shorena Tevzadze
Concrete Grassland
Georgia, France

Produced by
Elene Margvelashvili (Parachute Films), **Shorena Tevzadze** (DiaFilm)
Co-Produced by
Adriana Ferrarese (Ceresa Films)

Jury

Beke Rienitz
Mónica Hernández Rejón
Stephanie Fuchs

GRAP Archive Award

recognises a project in development with an extensive use of archival material. The prize consists an initial consultation with a GRAP Archive Producer, valued at €500.

Almira Saifullina
Dala
Kazakhstan, Sweden

Produced by
Kristina Mikhailova (Algiz)
Co-Produced by
Alex Shiriaieff, Max Tuula (EuroArctic Media Group AB)

Jury
Vanessa Christoffers-Trinks
Marine Perez
Monika Preischl

DOK Preview Germany

D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize

Our partner D-Facto Motion will award the D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize to one of the projects presented at DOK Preview Germany, providing post-production services valued at €10,000.

Julius Gintaras Blum
EASTKIDS
Germany 2026

DOK Short n' Sweet

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award

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

Anna Dziapshipa
Daughter of the Moon
Georgia, Germany

Produced by
Anna Dziapshipa (Sakdoc Film)

Representative

Sofia Tocar

DAE Talent Encouragement Award

The award includes a tailor-made mentoring session with a Senior Consultant of DAE (Documentary Association of Europe) and a one year of free membership.
The award is donated by: DAE

Elza Gubanova
Black Waters
Ukraine

Produced by
Anastasiia Zakhilko (Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema)

Representative

Charlie Philips

Ohrfilm Award

provides a comprehensive music support services for a short film.
The prize is donated by: Ohrfilm

Elza Gubanova
Black Waters
Ukraine

Produced by
Anastasiia Zakhilko (Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema)

Representative

Matthias Tode

DOK Exchange XR

NewImages Award for a DOK Exchange XR Showcase Project

The award offers participation in the NewImages Festival 2027, including access to the XR Distribution Market, providing opportunities for international networking, industry connections and distribution.

Volodymyr Kolbasa
Dreams Under Siege
Ukraine, Slovakia

Produced by
Volodymyr Kolbasa, Jan Hroncak – VRBA Labs

Jury
Federico Anselmi (NewImages)
Michele Ziegler (NewImages)

CPH:DOX Award for a DOK Exchange XR Showcase Project

The award offers one accreditation to CPH:DOX 2027, providing an opportunity to attend the festival, connect with international industry professionals and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

Alex Nevill
Restless Sea
United Kingdom

Produced by
Grant Keir – Faction North

Jury
Stella Ntavara (CPH:DOX)

CPH:DOX Award for a DOK Exchange XR Prototyping Zone Project

The award offers one accreditation to CPH:DOX 2027, providing an opportunity to attend the festival, connect with international industry professionals and explore new opportunities for collaboration.

Case Jernigan, Todd Anderson
Bub
USA

Produced by
Paperfrog

Jury
Stella Ntavara (CPH:DOX)