

69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, 26 April – 1 May 2023

All Awards of the 69th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen

Award ceremony: Monday, 1 May 2023, 7:30 p.m. CEST, Lichtburg Filmpalast, Elsässer Str. 26, 46045 Oberhausen

High-resolution stills of award-winning films are available in the Downloads section from Tuesday, 2 May, here: <https://www.kurzfilmtage.de/en/presse/>

Awards of the International Competition

Awards of the International Jury

Members:

Elene Abashidze (Georgia), Guilherme Blanc (Portugal), Steven Cairns (UK), Alexandra Gulea (Germany/Romania), Mats Stjernsted (Sweden)

Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen

worth 8,000 euros

Chornobyl 22

Oleksiy Radynski
Ukraine 2023, 20', colour

Statement:

Chornobyl 22 is an important piece of filmmaking for its documentation of local and global concerns in the region of Chornobyl. The jury recognised Oleksiy Radynski's ability to create tensions in the retelling of the Russian invasion while bridging histories as well as possible futures without overt aestheticization. The honest and candid interviews in the film make it an important work for today, but also for future generations to look back to. It is communicative and concise, with the possibility to reach a wide audience in different contexts and viewing environments.

Principal Prize

worth 4,000 euros

Camino de lava

(Roads of Lava)
Gretel Marín Palacio
Cuba 2022, 27'48", colour

Statement:

In Camino de lava the jury recognised the sensitivity of filmmaker Gretel Marín Palacio in the portrayal of the film's main character and his tender relationship with his parents. The film's dialogue captures important topics that are elaborated with messages of strength from queer and feminist perspectives. The symbolic depiction of interior and exterior space and ideas of the home as a safe space and one of possible structural change are all crafted with confidence. The struggles conveyed by the parent to the child are intimate but also raise awareness of social injustices and racism in Cuba and in other global contexts.

Promotional Prize of the International Competition

worth 1,500 euros

Xiuhtecuhtli

Colectivo Los Ingrávidos

Mexico 2023, 15'49", colour / black and white

Statement:

The jury recognised the artistry and craft of film as a medium involved in the making of Xiuhtecuhtli. The complexity of the film's editing and the sound were an immense feat, connecting us with the indigenous culture explored by Colectivo Los Ingrávidos. The piece is intense and deep, breaking with experimental film history to propose other film ontologies.

European Film Awards Short Film Candidate

I think of silence when I think of you

Jonelle Twum

Sweden 2022, 9', colour

Statement:

In nominating I Think of silence when I think of you for the European Film Awards, the jury recognise the importance of Jonelle Twum's practice in exploring personal histories and archives with the moving image, and its possibility to act as both a tool of self-expression, while also making tangible histories that are little recognised in experiences of Ghanaian migration in Sweden and Europe. The film's feminist perspective gives a voice to the work's focus while exploring the meaning of silence in an evocative way.

Special Mentions

Saya di Sini, Kau di Sana (a Tale of the Crocodile's Twin)

(I'm Here, You're There (a Tale of the Crocodile's Twin))

Taufiqurrahman Kifu

Indonesia 2022, 18'26", colour

Statement:

I'm Here, You're There (a tale of the Crocodile's Twin) brings oral history and tradition into the present with an awareness of today's precarious ecological situation. The film looks to the local to talk about wider issues globally in a light-hearted but serious way.

Nameless Syndrome

Jeamin Cha

South Korea 2022, 24', colour

Statement:

Jeamin Cha developed a delicate and respectful essay on illness with a moving and caring approach to the subject. The way theoretical quotations are integrated into the film is sharp and aesthetically convincing, contributing to the film's value.

Medic

(A Medic)
Alizhan Nasirov
Kyrgysztan 2023, 24', colour

Statement:

Medic is an expertly made portrait with exceptional cinematography. The jury were impressed by the filmmaker's ability to convey the persona of the medic against the vast landscapes depicted in the film.

1st Prize of the Jury of the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia

worth 5,000 euros

Members:

Bernd Brehmer (Germany), Soso Dumbadze (Georgia), Angelika Lepper (Germany), Ruth Schiffer (Germany), Ulrike Sprenger (Germany)

Untitled

Sweatmother
UK 2022, 8'45", colour

Statement:

A person in front of an arrangement of old video equipment. We follow a dialogue with an avatar of stereotypical femininity. Sweatmother confronts attributions of gender identity personally, biographically and poetically. We award a film that opens up questions of identity to the maximum with minimalist means.

2nd Prize of the Jury of the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia

worth 3,000 euros

Xiuhtecuhtli

Colectivo Los Ingrávidos
Mexico 2023, 15'49", colour / black and white

Statement:

Hypnotic interlacing of sound and image rhythms. Vitalization of cinema into a consciousness-expanding space. Film as a collective, ritual flash.

Special Mention

Lopte

(Balls)
Gorana Jovanović
Serbia/Slowenia 2022, 22'30", colour

Statement:

How does a society cope when war and unleashed violence have destroyed peaceful coexistence between neighbours? Using football as an example, Lopte by Gorana Jovanović explores the fine line between playful confrontation and escalating violence with documentary means that are as sober as they are precise.

The International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI Prize)

Members of the Jury:

Elaine Guerini (Brazil), C.J. Johnson (Australia), Hannes Wesselkämper (Germany)

2720

Basil da Cunha

Portugal/Switzerland 2023 29'44", colour

Statement:

For creating an astonishingly vibrant portrait of a community through the beauty and poetry of masterful narrative storytelling.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury

worth 1,500 euros

Members:

Christian Gürtler (Germany), Polina Kundirenko (Ukraine), Christian Murer (Switzerland)

Let's be friends

Arno Coenen, Rodger Werkhoven

Netherlands 2022, 5'26", colour

Statement:

This year the Ecumenical Jury decided to recognize the courage and the contribution to the development of a future path for the entire film industry. Our winner movie impressed all of the team members with a relevant topic, meta ironic approach, integrity and completeness of the theme revelation. In an experimental yet persuasive way, the filmmakers managed at the same time to create a statement and argue on it also establishing a vividly impressive visual style. We greatly appreciate the brave gesture and significant input into the discussion of modern technologies (AI) that influence our everyday life more and more, while occasionally leaving us with a feeling of powerlessness.

Special Mention

Every Sunday, GrandMa

Laure Prouvost

France/Belgium 2022, 7'17", colour

Statement:

We would like award a Special Mention to a film which left an unforgettable impression on the whole female part of our jury and both Christians, too. The representation of a woman of age in such a delightful and playful way sets a new tone for the film industry. Previously unfairly forgotten and now rising again with all the power of beauty, the aging woman becomes a new trend for the youth-obsessed male-perspectived world of cinema. Thank you for your inspiring masterwork, dear Laure Prouvost. Every Sunday, GrandMa should feel same as the protagonist in the nearest bright future.

ZONTA Prize

worth 1,000 euros

for a female filmmaker in the International or German Competition

Noita miettin

(Thinking about that)

Mox Mäkelä

Finland 2023, 20'48", colour

Statement:

Few plants were trampled in the production of this film. An oral, gutturally spoken waterfall of words that even in the original Finnish – let alone in the English subtitled version – works with absolute overload, with word inventions and leaps of thought: a rant on a world of commercial slime hooks. The film also exceeds all expectations on the visual level.

Awards of the German Competition

Members of the Jury:

Eren Aksu (Germany), Anne Bitterwolf (Germany), Istvan Gyöngyösi (Germany)

Prize of the German Competition

worth 5,000 euros

Turtleneck Phantasies

Gernot Wieland

Germany 2022, 17'46", colour/black and white

Statement:

Drawings, diagrams, tattoos, a voice... Using personal memories and individual experiences as a starting point, the film weaves complex narratives into sketches of society. With masterly skill, different media are playfully integrated, while the film is marked by a light wit that is never far from melancholy.

Promotional Prize of the German Competition

worth 1,500 euros

SSRC

Yalda Afsah

Germany 2022, 20'09", colour

Statement:

Taking the form of a poetic and visually powerful approach to the relationship between humans and animals and characterized by a consistent dramaturgy of suspense and great visual clarity, the film finds a remarkable way to address the relationship between power and submission, care and control.

3sat Emerging Talent Prize

worth 2,500 euros

In addition the award includes a buying option on the awarded work to be broadcast on 3sat.

Sensitive Content

Narges Kalhor

Germany 2022, 8'48", colour

Statement:

This film questions how we deal with images that depict the pains of others. Using a simple symbol, the omnipresent images of brutality hidden behind a filter are revealed. Mapping acts of state violence but also solidarity among the people, the film documents the power of the revolution – Jin, Jiyan, Azadi.

Special Mention

When He Leaves

Andrea Laušević

Germany 2023, 11'26", colour

Statement:

A Special Mention goes to a film that finds haunting images for a mother waiting for the return of her child.

Awards of the 15th NRW Competition

Members of the Jury:

Birgit Hauska (Cologne), Hilde Hoffmann (Düsseldorf), Ulli Klinkertz (Bonn)

Prize of the NRW Competition

worth 1,000 euros

Ich darf sie immer alles fragen

(I may always ask her anything)

Silke Schönfeld

Netherlands/Germany 2023, 15', colour

Statement:

We look into a treetop. We hear bird calls, karabiner clicks, winch sounds and the rustling of leaves in the wind. Tree cuttings lie on the ground and workers are at work with crampons. With the first text tableau, the monstrous, the unspeakable unfolds.

"The garden is freed from the colossus" we will later hear from the mother. It needs space and air to breathe. And the sweet red fruits have long tasted bitter. That cherry blossoms stands for purity, innocence, joy and happiness seems perfidious when we learn that the father planted the tree 50 years ago, for the daughter's subtle and clever cinematic reappraisal makes the wound visible. Trust and security are necessary to reclaim life and healing. We are taken along and understand why the cherry tree forms the starting point of an intimate cinematic dialogue about transgenerational trauma between mother and daughter. With the filmmaker, we look for clues in the photos. Just like the filmmaker, we know that she cannot read what she is looking for in the faces.

It is existential that those affected by sexualised violence and abuse do not have to keep quiet about their painful experiences and can overcome them with support and solidarity. Then it becomes possible that the inconceivable suffering is not passed on to subsequent generations. The mother creates a powerful piece of liberation and coping, the chainsaws are running and the container for the tree cuttings is set up.

The Prize of the NRW Competition goes to a strong and courageous cinematic documentation of the filmmaker's own family history. Vulnerable and empowering, the fifteen-minute filmic reappraisal reveals many things and at the same time shows the unanswerability of many questions.

Promotional Prize of the NRW Competition

worth 500 euros

Everything About a Mutual Acquaintance

Rasam Noori

Germany 2023, 37'45", colour

Statement:

The film shows a landscape, beautiful and barren – frozen, like the feelings of the protagonists. We are taken on a journey. The conversations, the feelings and the places in the solitude are intense and full of tension. Almost breathless, full of suspense, we follow the glances and conversations about something that cannot or must not be spoken about.

The brilliant acting of the protagonists is evident in the wide range of expressions, as well as in the concentrated reduction. Something fragile develops between them. A relationship that is beautifully translated into aesthetical images. We get to know the protagonists through a virtuoso mise en scène. The depth of emotion, the memories and speechlessness are revealed in the graphic design of the filmic spaces. The next morning, the cinematic narrative takes us back to the starting point and we wonder if it was all just a dream. The fathers who do not speak; the love of two men. What happens to the experiences of war? How do they change us? How are they passed on to the next generation? And what happens to a love that is not lived?

Special Mention

Feel What You're Feeling

Ale Bachlechner, Elsa Artmann, Samuel Duvoisin

Germany 2022, 18', colour

Statement:

Film is movement, film is sound, film is language. The contribution that the jury would like to distinguish with a Special Mention combines all of these in a special and idiosyncratic way. At the centre: bodies, words and sounds, and water. Together, the bodies create new body figures that move through a cool space marked by clarity, but which at the same time seems as convoluted and enigmatic as the body movements. The sounds are visceral and come from the depths of these bodies, the words are the language of a young generation, of a free and associative way of thinking. Neo-liberal sentences of permeability and openness, their own training language, humorously exhibited in their ambivalence. And the water goes its own way; once in the body, however, it can be tamed, can produce sounds and turn powder into a foaming mixture. A total work of art that surprised and fascinated the jury.

Prize of the WDR Westart Audience Jury

worth 750 euros, sponsored by WDR Westart

Members of the Jury:

Ralf Bühnen, Heiner Frost, Britta Geschonnek, Ulrike Leggewie-Brohm, Lea Luhn, Christina Menne, Andreas Polka-Radtke, Christian Rychter, Armin Sawicki, Daniela Zalewski-Lange

Everything About a Mutual Acquaintance

Rasam Noori

Germany 2023, 37'45", colour

Statement:

The film tells the story of a chance encounter between two men. An unusual relationship, suspended between affection and suspicion, develops between the two protagonists. The story subtly evolves into a parable on the male image in a patriarchal society. The depth of the film comes from what is implied and unspoken, portrayed brilliantly by the two actors. We were also convinced by the film's sensitive use of cinematic language, which perfectly supports the stringently told story.

Awards of the 46th International Children's and Youth Film Competition

Awards of the Children's Jury

Members of the Jury:

Mara Dörge, Maxim Kappes, Max Passmann, Nele Rebs, Isabell Wientgens

Prize of the Children's Jury

worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by Wirtschaftsbetriebe Oberhausen (WBO)

L'Avenir

Santiago Ráfales

Spain 2022, 19'11", colour

Statement:

Our winning film is about friendship and love. The boy and the girl are the same age as us. They play games that we would like to join. Sometimes we also feel like the two friends. We liked that it was made with real children, they did a great job acting.

Promotional Prize of the Children's Jury

worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by Energieversorgung Oberhausen AG (evo)

Siostra

(Sister)

Kasia K. Pierog

Poland 2022, 12', colour

Statement:

In our winning film, we were taken on a journey by two sisters. We liked that the big sister protects the little sister. The story reminds me a bit of my little brother, whom I always want to protect. The sisters fought but also made up again and stuck together. We think it was very beautifully drawn.

Special Mention

La Vérité sur Alvert le dernier dodo

(The Truth About Alvert, the Last Dodo)
Nathan Clement
Switzerland 2022, 16'29", colour

Statement:

Our Special Mention goes to a film that is sad and funny at the same time. The boy tries to transform a chicken into a magic dodo. This is how he wants to make his sick mother well again. His grandpa helps him. It was funny to see the two of them throwing the shoes in the air and looking for the chicken.

Prize of the Youth Jury

worth 1,000 euros, sponsored by the Rotary Club Oberhausen

Members of the Jury:

Mariella Engelbrecht, Constanze Lamert, Artem Protsenko, Thea Riesmeier, Max Steyvers

A menos que bailemos

(Unless We Dance)

Hanz Rippe Gabriele, Fernanda Pineda Palencia
Colombia 2023, 14'34", colour

Statement:

We feel that this film is very emotionally charged, especially the dance scenes and the listing of the deceased at the end of the film. Music and dance connect the protagonists and give them a perspective in an environment marked by violence. The film conveys closeness through its unembarrassed and honest portrayal and enables us to comprehend the various issues. The film is thought-provoking and it was easy for us to put ourselves in the characters' shoes. The visual and sound design are also great.

Special Mention

Summer Nights

Virgile Ratelle
Canada 2023, 14'22", colour

Statement:

Our Special Mention goes to a film that, for us, above all conveys a sense of freedom. It portrays the relationships of adolescents, documents them while skateboarding and shows their wishes for life. We really liked how it was realized, especially the authentic camera.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury of the Children's and Youth Film Competition

worth 1,500 euros

Members of the jury:

Anna Grebe (Germany), Suzana Kokalj (Slovenia), Maxime Pouyanne (France)

Le Jour de gloire

Romuald Rodrigues Andrade, Ludovic Aklil Piette
France 2022, 21'46", colour

Statement:

20-year-old Kamel and his friends have a plan: They want to make their city a place worth living in for everybody. But they are faced with the harshness of an adult world where good ideas are not enough to succeed. When they are dismissed as unimportant, they do not lose hope and are determined to fight for a

better tomorrow. *Le Jour de gloire* impressively depicts an obviously relevant issue for children and young people in times of multiple crises: How to participate in society while being marginalized due to their age, their social background, or their lack of political experience? We see how family can be both helpful and destructive at the same time for young people trying to establish themselves – and how solidarity overcomes personal needs. The well-executed script, the outstanding acting, and the ability of telling a universal yet complex story through a seemingly small event convinced the jury as much as young Kamel is convinced of community organizing as a means towards self-efficacy.

ECFA Short Film Award

(The award consists of a nomination for the ECFA Short Film Award 2024)

Members of the Jury:

Tessa van Grafhorst (Netherlands), Laura Laas (Estonia), Isotta Regazzoni (Switzerland)

Aaaah !

Osman Cerfon

France 2023, 4'41", colour

Statement:

Our winner is a film that fearlessly and with a fresh approach uncovers the raw emotions that bind us all. This film left us in stitches with its clever and humorous take on uncomfortable moments we can all relate to. Less is more, the director brilliantly weaves different short stories together with a very unique style, using just two letters of the alphabet. The bold visuals capture the essence of the film and have lingered in our minds long after viewing.

25th MuVi Award

Awarded on Saturday, 29 April 2023, 10pm CEST, Lichtburg Filmpalast, Elsässer Str. 26, 46045 Oberhausen

Members of the Jury:

Lori Felker (USA), Toulouse Low Trax (France), Thomas Venker (Germany)

1st Prize

worth 2,000 euros

Gravity (Laima Adelaide)

Duc-Thi Bui

Germany 2022, 6'47", black and white

Statement:

The clip perfectly combines the rhythms of the music and the text. Instead of defining the image landscape for the audience, the director believes in us, the audience, as the creators of our own images, inspired by the music as much as by the words. Therefore Duc-Thi Bui creates a cinema of its own by constructing a sensible visual layout, playing with typography as well as tempo and animated punctuation. The text on screen is both a close-read narration and an open invitation to create your own film.

2nd Prize

worth 1,000 euros

Das eigensinnige Kind (Raison)

Schorsch Kamerun

Germany 2022, 4'51", colour

Statement:

Both the song and the video take us along on an enigmatic journey into the life of the protagonist as well as into a reflection of the society around him. By choosing to act within the limited space of a Kammerspiel, Schorsch Kameruns brutally depicts how alone one can be within society. With a significant shush he makes sure the dark history stays inside without disturbing the world outside. This video plays like a nightmare straight out of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

Special Mention

Lamentierendes Schwein (Frau Kraushaar)

Helena Wittmann

Germany 2022, 3'18", colour

Statement:

We loved the beautiful dynamics of this clip.

MuVi Online Audience Award

chosen by online vote on www.muvipreis.de and worth 500 euros

Maschinenbauergemetzel (Paul Sies)

Julian Paul

Germany 2022, 2'58", colour

Oberhausen, 1 May 2023

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