

70th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, 1 – 6 May 2024

All Awards of the 70th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen

Award ceremony: Sunday, 5 May 2024, 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 Monday, 6 May, here: <https://www.kurzfilmtage.de/en/presse/>

Awards of the International Competition

Awards of the International Jury

Members:

Keren Cytter (Germany), Marco Müller (China), Okamura Keiko (Japan), Abraham Ravett (USA), Ariel Schweitzer (France), Ilya Tomashevich (France)

Grand Prize of the City of Oberhausen

worth 8,000 euros

Chūn Èr shí sān

(Spring 23)

Wang Zhiyi

China 2023, 13'13", colour

Statement:

For being able to be both humanistic and subtly political, for its precise cinematography and editing, for its mixture of tragedy and humour.

Principal Prize

worth 4,000 euros

The Many Interrupted Dreams of Mr. Hemmady

Amit Dutta

India 2024, 14'36", colour

Statement:

A director who moves effortlessly from the spontaneous encounter with a very unusual private collection to his own brand of ghostly animated magic. For him cinema becomes a way of travelling through culture, music and beauty thanks to the playful truth of a singular mix of animation techniques.

Promotional Prize of the International Competition

worth 1,500 euros

Waliduki Ala'Larjah

(The Father, Probably)
Tayib Tolba, Sidi Mohamed Tolba
Mauretania 2024, 28'17", colour

Statement:

The filmmakers' austere palette and cinematography depict the severe reality surrounding a girl living in a male dominated society. The engaging performance by the actress, Fatimetou Abeyd, contributed to the depth of this tragic narrative. By delicate suggestion, the film managed to make us feel the daily oppression of a woman in this closed community.

European Film Awards Short Film Candidate

Boucan

(Clamor)
Salomé Da Souza
France 2023, 25', colour

Statement:

For its realistic and rough description of a family and a community, for its daring interrogation of sexuality and taboo, for the amazing performance of the actors, most of them none-professional.

Special Mentions

Ovozar

(Voices)
Irina Savon
Uzbekistan 2023, 22'46", colour

Statement:

An insight into multiple working-class communities where the men labour under extreme conditions to support their respective families. With its observational mode of representation, the film provides us with an intimate glimpse into the sacrifices these men and their families experience.

Bol

(Pain)
Ivan Faktor
Croatia 2024, 22'14", colour

Statement:

We would like to pay our respect and tribute to Ivan Faktor for his extraordinary concluding project and also thank the filmmakers who resurrected and edited this footage and now made it available to the Oberhausen community.

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

worth 5,000 euros

Members:

Bernd Brehmer (Germany), Paul Feigelfeld (Austria), Angelika Lepper (Germany), Ruth Schiffer (Germany), Ulrike Sprenger (Germany)

On Hospitality – Layla al Attar and Hotel al Rasheed

Magnus Bærtås, Behzad Khosravi-Noori
Sweden 2023, 18', colour

Statement:

This film, which we chose first after much deliberation, builds a multi-layered architecture out of the possibilities and impossibilities of history. A voice from beyond and footsteps on the inlays of ideology take us into a narrative prism that allows us to understand the complexities of our present and the depths of power. The Hotel al Rashid with its 1001 rooms offers the filmmakers just enough space to show us how to think, explore and feel cinematically.

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

worth 3,000 euros

O Ma

(Before then)
Xue Mengzhu
Germany/China 2023, 30'07", colour/black and white

Statement:

Not everyone who has a language also has a voice. Our second vote therefore goes to a film that finds translations beyond writing and language and makes a poetic dialogue between the values of different generations possible that is immediately affectionate and unmediatedly close.

Special Mentions

Ba Gheyde Mahramanegi

(With Confidentiality)
Shervin Vahdat, Payam Azizi
Iran 2023, 17'12", colour

Statement:

Ingeniously simple and touching, this film weaves a story of solidarity, ambition and ambivalence. Risking their lives, the women of an Iranian village turn to the authorities to accuse their husbands. The film is not just about, it is feminist empowerment.

Ba'ad Thalek La Yahdoth Shea'

(Nothing Happens After That)
Ibrahim Omar
Sudan 2023, 12', colour

Statement:

The film speaks of the end of possibilities, of loss and grief and the outside of society that is a reality for refugees in life and in death. Ba'ad Thalek La Yahdoth Shea' (Nothing Happens After That) has no choice but to preserve the catastrophe because it cannot be processed, and cools the pain down to an existential visual language.

The International Critics' Prize (FIPRESCI Prize)

Members:

Leonard Geisler (Germany), Davide Magnisi (Italy), Yun-hua Chen (Germany)

Chūn Èr shí sān

(Spring 23)

Wang Zhiyi

China 2023, 13'13", colour

Statement:

For its sensitivity and irony in the process of mourning, with tight editing and an extraordinary visual talent.

Prize of the Ecumenical Jury

worth 1,500 euros

Members:

Alexandra Palkowitsch (Germany), Phil Rieger (Germany), Krisztián Tajti (Hungary)

O Ma

(Before then)

Xue Mengzhu

Germany/China 2023, 30'07", colour/black and white

Statement:

Language can be a barrier: We don't know the other person's language or can't understand what they want to tell us. Language can also be liberating: finally expressing what is on my mind, revealing myself and to share my inner feelings. But can language be both a barrier and a liberation? Yes, this paradox is possible. Our winning film this year proves it.

By dissolving the traditional categories of speaker and listener, it is also possible to express what cannot be said. A letter in a foreign language becomes a possibility of communication that remains misunderstood, and at the same time the unspeakable is said and no longer hidden.

The film is about our relationship with the people we love, the people we don't want to let go, and the people we want open up to. But it also shows how the gap between different generations, social systems and places can prevent us from fully understanding each other. It shows us a creative way of dealing with the unspeakable and is a plea for an intense relationship between us and our neighbours.

Special Mention

Hitbasrut

(Decryption)

Maya Zack

Israel 2023, 12'26", colour

Statement:

Memories fade – this experience is part of being human. We would give a lot to be able to go back in time for a moment and refresh our memories of people we care about. One film in this year's competition brings this to the screen in a unique, tactile way. Based on a personal story, the film uses intense scenes to explore a universal human theme. We read it as an opportunity to dive deeper into the existential questions about the other within the self, about the materiality and conditions of memory. Despite the healing power of multi-layered attempts to get closer: Memory resists its complete decryption.

ZONTA Prize

worth 1,000 euros
for a female filmmaker in the International or German Competition

DESIGN BIO TOILET

Mariola Brillowska
Germany 2024, 3'58", colour

Statement:

This year's ZONTA Prize goes to a filmmaker who has long accompanied the festival with her works. Her films have an unmistakable signature, are garish, often loud, full of colour and always to the point. What looks spontaneous is always finely crafted. With this film she has amazed us once again; we are thrilled.

Awards of the German Competition

Members of the Jury:

Max Linz (Germany), Kathrin Resetarits (Austria), Boris Schafgans (Germany)

Prize of the German Competition

worth 5,000 euros

Vermessung der Tristesse

(Measuring Sadness)
Agnieszka Jurek
Germany 2024, 18', colour

Statement:

The moment is a way out, can be a salvation and let you sense infinity. A moment and then another moment, sensations that lie like islands in the course of time. Next to it, a child growing older, in a forest that always seems to remain the same. Breathe in, breathe out.

Promotional Prize of the German Competition

worth 1,500 euros

That's All From Me

Eva Könnemann
Germany 2024, 23'52", colour

Statement:

The sincerity and vulnerability with which the filmmaker's character embarks on a search for a way out of a social and personal dilemma does not lead to a solution, but to an opening process in which she lets us participate, full of self-irony and insight: That's All From Me – we wish that this is *not* all we will have heard and seen from this filmmaker.

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.

Outside

Marian Mayland
Germany 2024, 29'52", colour

Statement:

A story that was readily believed was exposed as a lie that disturbed relatives and those around her. The case of the artist who pretended to be a victim of the Nazi regime is now returning in a new version. We believe that the discourse triggered by this story should be given the opportunity to be continued in public television programmes.

Special Mention

LIKE HORSES STANDING IN THE RAIN

Nicolaas Schmidt
Germany 2024, 16', colour

Statement:

A tragicomic journey that leads nowhere, but yields an insight: In a montage of images from the very recent past, the film gradually creates a fragmentary cartography of a suicidal era whose problem is not that consumer capitalism offers the wrong fulfilment for our desires, but that these desires have never been our own.

Awards of the 16th NRW Competition

Members of the Jury:

Neriman Bayram (Germany), Oliver Flothkötter (Germany), Lili Hartwig (Germany)

Prize of the NRW Competition

worth 1,000 euros

Bei Gino

(At Gino's)
Christoph Otto
Germany 2024, 9'31", colour

Statement:

An aimless night in a Cologne bar. New and old acquaintances, anecdotes and lots of wine accompany the protagonist on her quest for something undefined. The camera, too, is searching for its images, unfolding, with subtle humour, a social reference space in which partying, drinking and getting to know other people are a natural part of life.

Promotional Prize of the NRW Competition

worth 500 euros

swinging

Miri Klischat

Germany 2024, 6'45", black and white

Statement:

Fleeting moments of upheaval. In brief snapshots of a summer day spent together which talk both of intimacy and attempts at getting closer, we observe a boy on the threshold between childhood and adolescence. Like the swing which moves in and out of the frame, he, too, floats between the times.

Special Mention

Alltagstalente

Lindi

German 2023, 3'18", colour/black and white

Statement:

Even though the protagonists of this film come to the conclusion that their talent lies in doing nothing, the film displays a special and regrettably increasingly rare quality: an anarchic joy of filmmaking.

Prize of the WDR Westart Audience Jury

worth 750 euros, sponsored by WDR Westart

Members:

Alia Aswab, Larissa Braunöhler, Elke Hinrichs, Ilka Liesner, Zolniam Nomguunsuren, Werner Travis Ratajzak, Peter Ruhwedel-Kebbe, Cornelia Saalfeld, Joachim Saalfeld, Uwe Schmitt, Nina Stuttkwitz, Ingeborg Sungen, Karin Teichmann, Sabine Wegge

Heile Welt

(Lost Places)

Kerstin Gramberg

Germany 2023, 11'50", colour

Statement:

A film that shows the world between idyll and threat, between untouched nature and civilisation, between paradise and hell. Are we humans disturbing unspoilt nature or is nature disturbing human activity? An enchantingly animated setting, created from the simplest materials such as sugar, felt and paper. Accompanied by an impressively precise sound layer that draws the viewer emotionally into a poetic world of images. We from the Westart Audience Jury consider this combination of relevant content and unique style to be very special and therefore award the WDR Westart Prize 2024 to the short film Heile Welt by Kerstin Gramberg.

Awards of the 47th International Children's and Youth Film Competition

Awards of the Children's Jury

Members:

Berdan Aksünger, Bennet Baron, Loujayn Selmi, June Vaezi, Ida Vetter

Prize of the Children's Jury

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

Frite sans maillot

(Noodles au Naturel)

Matteo Salanave Piazza

France 2023, 4'15", Farbe

Statement:

Our winning film totally hit our sense of humour. The film is about Anthony having forgotten his swimming trunks, right when swimming lessons are about to start. He quickly has to come up with a solution. The scene where we saw the boy's bottom against the window pane, for example, was funny. Everyone laughed. The funniest and most encouraging part was when the boy shouts out loud: "I've forgotten my swimming trunks. I've only got my briefs on!"

Promotional Prize of the Children's Jury

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

MY SCHOOL

Keitaro Oshima

Japan 2023, 9'37", colour

Statement:

What we really like about our winning film is that other children have worked on it, because the film is the result of an art project. The beautifully drawn animations are mixed with real images. They are scenes from everyday school life. The music and images harmonised particularly well. And what impressed us particularly were the bright colours of the images.

Special Mention

Brouillarta

Ingvild Söderlind

Norway 2023, 14'10", colour

Statement:

Our Special Mention goes to a film that is scary, exciting and also mysterious. It was easy for us to put ourselves in the shoes of the boy who is a little scared. We also like the different camera angles in this feature film. At first we thought Brouillarta was a ghost. If you want to know who or what Brouillarta is, you have to see the film.

Prize of the Youth Jury

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

Members:

Bilal El-Zein, Leonita Emini, Medina Morkoç, Amra Tokić, Athanasia Tsangaroudi

Beyond Farewell

Jackie Shijie Xing
USA 2024, 4'34", colour

Statement:

The music video was very touching and shows the immense importance that one person can have for another. The film makes it clear that every separation is hard and never the same. Two worlds collide – AI and ours – and there is no “typical” goodbye here. The production countries USA and China were represented and we were impressed by how the film illustrates this. The title of the film shows that everyone deserves the best. We felt very well entertained by the film and it appealed to us because it is about love.

Special Mention

Boat People

Thao Lam, Kjell Boersma
Canada 2023, 9'59", colour

Statement:

Our Special Mention goes to a film that we think has a very relevant and important message. The film shows the danger and tense situation experienced from the perspective of a child fleeing from its country. We are shown a hope that never really ends, along with a chaos of emotions. The film was very informative, which is very good for people who may not know much about war and flight.

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

worth 1,500 euros

Members:

Franciska Hortoványi (Hungary), Theresia Merz (Austria), Johan H. Roeland (Netherlands)

The Old Young Crow

Liam LoPinto
Japan/USA 2023, 12', colour

Statement:

An elderly man reminisces about a childhood experience of solitude in a new location while reading his old sketchbook. His drawings transport him back to a significant moment in a quiet graveyard, where he found solace and encountered an older woman grieving her son's loss. This film employs innovative animation techniques alongside live action, weaving a heartfelt narrative about a spiritually sensitive boy adapting to new religious customs. Through connecting with the deceased and reconciling his own losses, he discovers a sense of belonging in his unfamiliar surroundings.

ECFA Short Film Award

(The award consists of a nomination for the ECFA Short Film Award 2025)

Members:

Martina Genetti (Austria), Claudia Schmid (Switzerland), Agnieszka Sinicka (Poland)

Iris

Jon Vatne
Norway 2024, 14'01", colour

Statement:

In its highly imaginative and unpredictable plot, the film delves into a child's view on everyday life experiences and ultimately legitimizes this particular perspective on the world. It sensitively portrays an eye-to-eye relationship between a girl and a toddler who support each other as they embark on an adventure: A surreal, yet familiar and relatable journey of discovery through a world beyond the adult mindset that empowers children in a non-conformist way.

26th MuVi Award

Awarded on Saturday, 4 May 2024, 10pm CEST, Lichtburg Filmpalast, Elsässer Str. 26, 46045 Oberhausen

Members of the Jury:

Anne Haffmans (Germany), Benjamin Moldenhauer (Germany), Shahrzad Eden Osterer (Germany)

1st Prize

worth 2,000 euros

Schleim des Nichtwissens (Back To Comm)

Marc Richter

Germany 2024, 5'36", colour

2nd Prize

worth 1,000 euros

Das Parlament der Dinge (F.S.K.)

Juno Melián Meinecke

Germany 2023, 3'40", colour/black and white

Special Mention

Google Your New Name (Golden Diskó Ship)

Paula Reissig

Deutschland 2023, Länge 3'25", Farbe

MuVi Online Audience Award

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

Das Parlament der Dinge (F.S.K.)

Juno Melián Meinecke

Germany 2023, 3'40", colour/black and white

Oberhausen, 5 May 2024

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