

Overview of Award Winners of the 34th Filmfest Dresden

Golden Horsemen International Competition

Golden Horseman Animated Film International Competition

Prize Money: € 7,500

Sponsor: State Chancellery of Saxony

International Jury: John Canciani, Mariana Hristova, Martina Scarpelli

ANXIOUS BODY by Yoriko Mizushiri (France/Japan 2021)

Jury Statement:

This film tickles the viewer by exploring the textures and forms, as well as the multifaceted sensuality of the human body. Through an intimate and ambiguous exploration, it demonstrates how close pleasure and pain could be. Tactile, dreamlike and contemplative. The film stages the author's distinctive artistic style in terms of the visual aesthetics and sound design.

Special Mention:

TERRA INCOGNITA by Pernille Kjaer, Adrian Dexter (France / Denmark 2021)

Jury Statement:

This film provoked long discussions within the jury as it is obviously a love-hate film. For the unapologetic attitude of the filmmakers, mesmerising visuals and sharp humour.

Golden Horseman Short Film International Competition

Prize Money: € 7,500

Sponsor: Public Media Authority for Private Broadcasting (SLM)

International Jury: John Canciani, Mariana Hristova, Martina Scarpelli

HELTZEAR by Mikel Gurrea (Spain 2021)

Jury Statement:

The title of the film originates from the verbs to hold, to grow and to arrive. It portrays the process of overcoming a personal grief arising from the legacy of a collective trauma through physical challenges. By strengthening the body and thus strengthening the mind, the

protagonist finds a way to look ahead. Simply staged, yet layered, the film's condensed storytelling and coherent style proves yet again that less is more.

Special Mention:

ORTHODONTICS by Mohammadreza Mayghani (Iran 2021)

Jury Statement:

This film stood out among the titles in competition: It's awkward, it's surreal, it's imaginative, it's original, it's colourful, and yet dark at the same time.

Golden Horsemen of the Audience International Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Sächsische Zeitung

MILY TATI (LOVE, DAD) by Diana Cam Van Nguyen (Czech Republic / Slovakia 2021)

Golden Horseman of the Youth Jury International Competition

Prize Money: € 2,000

Sponsor: Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden

Youth Jury International Competition: Anna-Lena Uhlig, Nora Conrad, Emily Sprott

TECHNO, MAMA by Saulius Baradinskas (Lithuania 2021)

Jury Statement:

Colours in conflict. Basses like hammer blows. The feeling of imprisonment meets the desire for freedom. He finds his sole escape from motherly violence in music, but the borderlines become blurred. For the protagonist of this fictional film, techno is the only way for him to express his feelings and break free from this 1 to 1 format.

Special Mention:

SIERRA by Sander Joon (Estonia 2022)

Jury Statement:

Moreover, we would like to give a Special Mention to the dynamic animated film SIERRA from Sander Joon, which shows us in a comic way that we should not force children into living out our dreams, and that instead they need space for self-fulfilment.

National Competition Awards

Golden Horseman Animated Film National Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: DIAF German Institute for Animated Films, Friends of FILMFEST DRESDEN

National Jury: Veneta Androva, Knut Elstermann, Karina Plachetka

NIGHT by Ahmad Saleh (Germany / Jordan / Qatar / Palestine 2021)

Jury Statement:

The moving stop-motion film with its incredibly lively and sensitively directed figures takes us to a destroyed city, to the victims of violence and war. Here in the middle of the rubble, in this emergency of abstraction, the night appears as a consoler of humankind, bestowing moments of truth and peace upon it in dreams. In this way, the haunting film becomes a poetic myth of great universality.

Special Mention:

TO THE LAST DROP (BIS ZUM LETZTEN TROPFEN) by Simon Schnellmann (Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

A Special Mention goes to Simon Schnellmann's film TO THE LAST DROP for the artist's wonderful ability to depict, utilising highly reduced means matched by absurd humour and compassion, cancer as a struggle between life and death – and that in just six minutes!

Golden Horseman Short Film National Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Saxony Film Association

National Jury: Veneta Androva, Knut Elstermann, Karina Plachetka

HANDBOOK (HANDBUCH) by Pavel Mozhar (Germany/Belarus 2021)

Jury Statement:

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Set in the director's own apartment in Berlin, the film reconstructs the torture methods of the regime in Belarus. The maltreatment is demonstrated by taking a factual handbook as the format. In its soberness and objectivity especially, the film mirrors the mercilessness of the perpetrators and the agonies of the victims, whose horrific statements develop an increasingly powerful, emotional impact. Doing so, the apartment, which can be recognised as such, becomes a stage of horrors. And this is not some remote torture chamber, but in our immediate present, right now.

Special Mention:

LET'S KILL (LASS MÖRDER SEIN) by Max Gleschinski (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

A Special Mention for Max Gleschinski's disturbing, cleverly constructed and wonderfully performed film LET'S KILL about the nature of violence.

Golden Horseman of the Audience National Competition

Prize Money: € 4,000

Sponsor: MDR Public Broadcaster

NICHT DIE 80er by Marleen Valien (Germany 2022)

Golden Horseman Youth Jury National Competition

Prize Money: € 2,000

Sponsor: Melli-Beese-Oberschule Dresden (Semper Bildungswerk)

Youth Jury National Competition: Pia Müller, Oliver Zech, Nele Birkholz

THAT DIVINE CADAVER (DIESER GÖTTLICHE KADAVER) by Leonhard Hofmann (Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

The prizewinning film is not easy to digest. You can literally feel the unbearable heat and almost even smell the sweating body odours on the screen. Yet it is exactly this repulsive atmosphere

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that catches the viewer's gaze. Despite all its fragmentation and absurdity, this film is concerned with personalities trapped within themselves and individuals lacking resonance.

Special Mention:

TO THE LAST DROP (BIS ZUM LETZTEN TROPFEN) by Simon Schnellmann (Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

Our Special Mention goes to a film that, by using intelligently thoughtful and minimalist images, succeeds in removing the audience's fear of being confronted by this painful theme. This short film reveals the power that humour is capable of developing.

Saxon Film Promotion Prize

Prize Money: € 20,000

Sponsor: Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism

National Jury: Veneta Androva, Knut Elstermann, Karina Plachetka

FIRST WORK, THEN PLAY by Brenda Lien (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

A female musician is suffering from the pressure of her next album, believing she has to correspond perfectly to the excessive demands of a neoliberal society. It is impossible to elude the charm of this richly associative and directive narrative style with its numerous medial references. In a wonderfully playful, constructed Instagram world, very real questions of existence arise that not only concern freelance artists.

DEFA Promotion Prize Animation

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: DEFA Foundation

National Jury: Veneta Androva, Knut Elstermann, Karina Plachetka

KLIMAX by Bea Höller (Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

We accompany the naked Barbie doll, that symbol of standardised sleekness, on a fast-paced, sensual journey through the labyrinth of desire. With exuberant imagination, the film creates erotic landscapes, in which the rampant imagery of Georgia O'Keefe becomes connected with the

commercial mechanisms of the sex industry – over a breathless, entertaining and garish three minutes.

Award in the Regional Competition

Regional Competition/Regional Film Night: Audience Award

Prize Money: € 2,000
Sponsor: Filmnächte am Elbufer

FLUFFY TALES by Alison Kuhn (Germany 2021)

Cross-Competitive Awards

ARTE Short Film Prize

Prize Money: € 6,000 (towards the purchase of a film)
Sponsor & Jury: ARTE

SIERRA by Sander Joon (Estonia 2022)

Jury Statement:

The 2022 ARTE Short Film Prize is being awarded to a film about a father-mother-child constellation, an animated ode to Sunday activities that take a surreal turn. The film is a completely personal immersion in the world of «folk racing», Finnish amateur car racing that we experience through the eyes of a child. In the film, we join in a frantic contest for recognition, which reminds us that it is often challenges which shape us. We congratulate Sander Joon for his wonderful film SIERRA.

"fully political" - Short Film Award of the Saxon Centre for Political Education

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Saxon Centre for Political Education

Jury "fully political" - Short Film Award: Arkadij Khaet, Dr. Roland Löffler, Sabine Michel

HANDBOOK (HANDBUCH) by Pavel Mozhar (Germany/Belarus 2021)

Jury Statement:

A room that could be anywhere. In it, an artistic experimental arrangement that recounts the cruelties at the mass arrests in 2020 during the demonstrations in Belarus. The film appears like a training manual for a torture system. With impressively few cinematic means, Pavel Mozhar alienates Lukashenko's system of repression. A film that gets under your skin.

Special Mention:

CHERRY BONES (KIRSCHKNOCHEN) von Evgenia Gostrer (Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

Close, intimate, and warm, the flow of a migration is kneaded onscreen.

The "fully political" jury gives a Special Mention to the film CHERRY BONES by Evgenia Gostrer.

Golden Horseman Sound Design

Prize Money: € 3,000 (€1,500 non-cash prize for studio shot + € 1,500 prize money)

Sponsors: Ballroom Studios / FILMFEST DRESDEN

Jury Sound Design: Jessica Manstetten, Daniel Hoffknecht, Johannes Gerstengarbe

VADIM ON A WALK (VADIM NA PROGULKE) by Sasha Svirsky (Russia 2021), Music/Sound:

Alexey Prosvirnin

Jury Statement:

This film's sound led the jury to many questions worth discussing: Does the protagonist confuse freedom with distraction that promises happiness? Do we keep falling for bread and games? How big is the creative space of each human?

The sounds are individual in an exciting way, coupled with a laconic descriptive voice.

LUCA Film Award for GenderEquality

Prize Money: € 2,000

Sponsors: LAG Jungen- und Männerarbeit Sachsen e.V., Genderkompetenzzentrum Sachsen, LAG Queeres Netzwerk Sachsen, FrauenBildungsHaus Dresden e.V.

Jury LUCA Film Award: Kerstin Honeit, Lion H. Lau, Samuel Girma

IT IS NOT THE BRAZILIAN HOMOSEXUALS WHO ARE PERVERSE BUT THE SITUATION IN WHICH THEY LIVE by Eduardo Mamede, Leandro Goddinho, Paulo Menezes (Brazil / Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

For reminding us that queer filmmaking originates from an underground DIY approach and by revisiting and expanding queer heritage, the film reveals in a raw and poetic way the precarious situations for POC queers in Germany by framing a collective perspective of personal experiences of racism, fetishisation, class and the politics of bodies.

The film reminds us that we queers have always used wittiness and turned our struggles into resistance and survival.

Dresden Short Film Award of the German Film Critics Association

Prize Money: unendowed

Sponsor: German Film Critics Association

Jury Dresden Short Film Award: Dunja Bialas, Frédéric Jaeger, Tina Waldeck

IT IS NOT THE BRAZILIAN HOMOSEXUALS WHO ARE PERVERSE BUT THE SITUATION IN WHICH THEY LIVE by Eduardo Mamede, Leandro Goddinho, Paulo Menezes (Brazil / Germany 2021)

Jury Statement:

Casualness and naturalness is the low-threshold characteristic of this film realised with the simplest means, which knows how to use the low-key aesthetics of mobile phone camera and lip sync. The everyday conversations between two friends and their exposed, self-deprecating body positivity form the film's deceptive bids for harmlessness before it almost imperceptibly turns into an insinuating political pamphlet, only to be recaptured in comedic absurdity. With staged lightness and tongue-in-cheek physicality, this could be the dawn of a new, lustily political filmmaking.

Special Mention:

AFTER A ROOM by Naomi Pacifique (United Kingdom / Netherlands / Switzerland 2021)

Jury Statement:

A Special Mention for the glorious lack of vanity in the renaissance of a deeply French genre: The portrait of bodies loving, desiring and becoming indifferent to each other goes to AFTER A ROOM, directed by Naomi Pacifique.
