

Overview of Award Winners of the 35th Filmfest Dresden

Golden Horsemen International Competition

Golden Horseman Animated Film International Competition

Prize Money: € 7,500

Sponsor: State Chancellery of Saxony

International Jury: Diana Cam Van Nguyen, Faiyaz Jafri, Niels Putman

IT'S RAINING FROGS OUTSIDE (AMPANGABAGAT NIN TALAKBA HA LIKOL) by Maria Estela Paiso (Philippines 2021)

Jury Statement:

An eloquent bricolage of VFX visualises a personal, emotional state of solitude that is both dreamlike and nightmarish at the same time. This film poetically blends narrative and its aesthetics to the point where they become indistinguishable.

Special Mention:

TIGER STABS TIGER (HU DE JU BU) by Jie Shen (China 2022)

Jury Statement:

For pushing conventions of animation and narrative by building tension between its sparse cinematic punctuations – an honourable mention goes to TIGER STABS TIGER by Jie Shen

Golden Horseman Short Film International Competition

Prize Money: € 7,500

Sponsor: Public Media Authority for Private Broadcasting (SLM)

International Jury: Diana Cam Van Nguyen, Faiyaz Jafri, Niels Putman

ASTERÍON by Francesco Montagne (Czech Republic / Slovakia 2022)

Jury Statement:

A tender, sensual deconstruction so visceral that the images scream without any sound and stimulate all the senses. A transformative, unsettling, yet beautiful film that feels controlled and wild at the same time.

Golden Horsemen of the Audience International Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000 Sponsor: Sächsische Zeitung

ÉCORCHÉE (SKINNED) by Joachim Hérisse (France 2022)

Golden Horseman of the Youth Jury International Competition

Prize Money: € 2,000

Sponsor: Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden

Youth Jury International Competition: Elisabeth Glauche, Amelie Zimmermann, Samuel Gottlebe

FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO by Jorge Cadena (Switzerland / Colombia 2022)

Jury Statement:

Glittering fighting spirit. Performative protest. Repressive headwind.

A fascinating community of multifaceted individuals demands change and their right to codetermine and participate. They shake up a dirty system that is destroying livelihoods both now and in the future.

The powerful emotions and the protagonists' cohesion, as well as the view of distant realities of life inspire us to stand up to injustice courageously and colourfully.

Special Mention:

ASTERÍON by Francesco Montagne (Czech Republic / Slovakia 2022)

Jury Statement:

Without words, ASTERÍON from Francesco Montagner triggers off an agitated controversy between us, and that especially through its special and unique aesthetics. It generates a field of tension in which fascination and aversion merge like in no other film.

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: Alina Cyranek, Mateja Meded, Robert Seidel

THE WAITING by Volker Schlecht (Germany 2023)

Jury Statement:

A clear view that lures us into false thought patterns only to then surprise us – and that on both a textual and visual level. A seemingly insignificant anomaly reveals powerfully intertwined global and political structures to us. Without being loud or missionary, the story remains both light and playful and is brought to life through its excellent craftsmanship.

Special Mention:

THE SCENT OF BEETROOT AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE FOREVER by Petra Stipetić, Maren Wiese (Germany 2023)

Jury Statement:

An absurd array of images from a utopian dystrophy – or a dystopian utopia – with a wilful aftertaste.

Golden Horseman Short Film National Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Filmnächte am Elbufer

National Jury: Alina Cyranek, Mateja Meded, Robert Seidel

MOTHER PRAYS ALL DAY LONG (MADAR TAMAME ROOZ DOA MIKHANAD) von Hoda Taheri (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

We live in a world where people who are able to speak are silenced or kept silent. Films are usually made about these people that shift between calculation and emotion. This is not the case with this film, which narrates its own story confidently and without victim clichés and tear-jerking kitsch.

Special Mention:

HOMESICK (HEIMWEH) by Maja Bresink (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

While minimalist in terms of its content and design, this work is courageous especially. Poetic and touching at one and the same time, the film reveals a destroyed world to us, in which a slowly strengthening will emerges to take its healing into its own hands.

Golden Horseman of the Audience National Competition

Prize Money: € 4,000

Sponsor: MDR Public Broadcaster

MODDERGAT (MUDHOLE) by Job Antoni Schellekens (Germany 2022)

Golden Horseman Youth Jury National Competition

Prize Money: € 2,000

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

Youth Jury National Competition: Elsa Felica Peter, Moritz Willner, Maja Sky

URBAN SOLUTIONS by Minze Tummescheit, Luciana Mazeto, Vinícius Lopes, Arne Hector (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

A journey through time from the present to the past and from slavery to wage labour. The short film takes us from an imperialist society marked by slavery to a capitalist one in which slavery continues to live on within the supposed idyllic beauty of Brazil and under the guise of liberality. With the individual, the human, existing between freedom, security and fear here. The film skilfully reveals relationships of dependency between differing classes.

Special Mention:

HOMESICK (HEIMWEH) by Maja Bresink (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

A special mention is accorded to HOMESICK from Maja Bresink for successfully achieving a reduction to the essentials and the deep emotions resulting from this.

Saxon Film Promotion Prize

Prize Money: € 20,000

Sponsor: Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism

National Jury: Alina Cyranek, Mateja Meded, Robert Seidel

LAKE OF FIRE by NEOZOON (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

The artistic process as a forensic tool: An alchemical procedure that composes an essayistic collage libretto from the scour of the social-media cesspool. Elements are conducted, arranged and harmonised, resulting in a canon. Intentions hidden behind rituals are revealed through absurd humour. We would like to honour the great playful instinct, an unmistakable personal style and the vision of one's own artistic future with this award.

DEFA Promotion Prize Animation

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: DEFA Foundation

National Jury: Alina Cyranek, Mateja Meded, Robert Seidel

WIND WHISPERER (TESTIGO DEL VIENTO) by Fernanda Caicedo (Germany/Ecuador 2022)

Jury Statement:

With an impressive formal language that seems to vibrate in every detail, we are swept away on a synesthetic journey: The absolute urge to savour and formulate life in all of its facets while leaving nothing untried before darkness falls. With a range of materials that seems to have fallen out of time, upended by revealing the intrinsic movement found in a sensual world.

Award in the Central German Competition

Golden Horseman Central German Competition

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Saxony Film Association

Jury National Competition: Alina Cyranek, Mateja Meded, Robert Seidel

JUICE (SAFT) by Mona Keil (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

A look into an hermetic world where power relations oscillate between symbiosis and a shifting in the perpetrator-victim situation. A modern version of the Prometheus myth is narrated through a vivid materiality of textures, movement and sound design. The originality of the somewhat upsetting adaptation reverberates for a long time.

Cross-Competitive Awards

ARTE Short Film Prize

Prize Money: € 6,000 (towards the purchase of a film)

Sponsor & Jury: ARTE

THE LAND OF MILK & HONEY by Isabelle Nouzha (Belgium 2022)

Jury Statement:

This animated film transports us to a freakish, dystopian future, a society in which the ruling class brazenly exploits the working class by catapulting labourers around the world and recycling them into mattress rubber at the first signs of weakness or political awareness.

The film is characterised by its lively pace and dark, biting humour, its subversion of stock footage and the blunt, fear-mongering language of journalism that permeates our daily lives.

"fully political" - Short Film Award for Democratic Culture

Prize Money: € 3,000

Sponsor: Saxon State Ministry of Justice, Democracy, European Affairs and Gender Equality

Jury "fully political": Anna Gaberscik, Abhishek Nilamber, Pavel Mozhar

FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO by Jorge Cadena (Switzerland / Colombia 2022)

Jury Statement:

Portraying beauty, vulnerability and collectivity, the protagonists resonate in their manyness to coalesce into a force that resist normativity and occupation, even when the odds are against them. An unapologetic portrayal of performative collective revolutionary action.

Special Mention:

MOTHER PRAYS ALL DAY LONG (MADAR TAMAME ROOZ DOA MIKHANAD) by Hoda Taheri (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

For an intimate and empowered visual narration, a special mention goes to MOTHER PRAYS ALL DAY LONG.

Golden Horseman Sound Design

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

Sponsors: Ballroom Studios / Harmody (Tech & Life Solutions GmbH)

Jury Sound Design: Chiara Strickland, Dennis Todorovic, Johannes Gerstengarbe

MULIKA by Maisha Maene (Congo 2022), Sound: Don Zilla, Jack Moran, Rey Sapienz

Jury Statement:

Edgy low-fi and metallic sounds take us on a thoughtful sonic journey through space, the streets and underground. We follow the main character from a dystopia through driving rhythms to the direct sound of reality and back to beats and spherical music – but this time a utopia is possible.

Special Mention:

THE SCENT OF BEETROOT AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE FOREVER by Petra Stipetić, Maren Wiese (Germany 2023)

Jury Statement:

Our honourable mention for the fat, immaculately produced, synesthetic and wonderfully weird sound goes to the film THE SCENT OF BEETROOT AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE FOREVER by Petra Stipetić and Maren Wiese.

LUCA Film Award for GenderEquality

Prize Money: € 2,000

Sponsors: LAG Jungen- und Männerarbeit Sachsen, Genderkompetenzzentrum Sachsen, LAG Queeres Netzwerk Sachsen

Jury LUCA Film Award: Ulla Heinrich, Şeyda Kurt, Paulo Menezes

LOÏE FULLER – THE ELECTRIC SPRITE von Betina Kuntzsch (Germany 2022)

Jury Statement:

We honour a multi-voiced and electrifying film that blends historical footage with animation and evocative music to portray a queer pioneer of visual art and her relationship with another woman: Loïe Fuller and Gab Sorère. Together, they popularised the Serpentine Dance in the United States and Europe during the 19th century. This archaeologically inspired film simultaneously offers a critical perspective on the prevailing history of film, which is also a history of exploitation and forgetting. In this history, the names of the Lumière brothers naturally occupy a place alongside concepts such as “cinema” or “Serpentine Dance”, while the names of female visionaries who shaped this art are often missing.

The filmmaker we honour is also a versatile, interdisciplinary artist whose work is a patchwork of materials and artistic approaches. Through her own creations and those of Loïe Fuller, whom she brings back to our memory, she demonstrates that queer art transcends shallow identity attributions – that it crosses boundaries of storytelling, gaze and image to create new perspectives on history and ultimately on our present.

Dresden Short Film Award of the German Film Critics Association

Prize Money: unendowed

Sponsor: German Film Critics Association

Jury Dresden Short Film Award: Tim Abele, Anne Küper, Bilal Zouheir

HEART FRUIT von Kim Allamand (Switzerland 2022)

Jury Statement:

This film dissects the attempts and the failures to verbalise relationships. The artificiality in which it shows us people and spaces is melancholic and paranoid at one and the same time – and the film reminds us that romance often thrives in the unspoken and through distance.

Special Mention:

INFANTARIA (INFANTRY) by Laís Santos Araújo (Brazil 2022)

Jury Statement:

*An honourable mention for a film that, through the use of colour, develops a narrative of female solidarity and reflects on the hopes that await in the struggles of life:
INFANTARIA by Laís Santos Araújo*
