

FIFF

30^e Festival International
de Films de Fribourg
11–19.03.2016

Award Winners FIFF 2016

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION: FEATURE FILMS

GRAND PRIZE REGARD D'OR

The Regard d'or is the Grand Prize of the Fribourg International Film Festival and consists of CHF 30,000 jointly bestowed by the State of Fribourg (CHF 20,000) and the Municipality of Fribourg (CHF 10,000). This award is conferred upon the director (CHF 20,000) and the producer (CHF 10,000) of the film selected by the International Jury.

Jury: International Competition: Feature Films

The members of the International Jury: Feature Films of the 30th Fribourg International Film Festival are:

Diep Hoang Nguyen, Vietnam (filmmaker)

Alanté Kavaïté, France (filmmaker)

Aline Schmid, Switzerland (producer)

Maja Zimmermann, Switzerland (producer)

The Regard d'or goes to:

MOUNTAIN

Yaelle Kayam

Israel, Denmark, 2015

«For the uniqueness of the settings and the precision with which the filmmaker unfolds this intimate quest and reveals to us the complexity of the world and of the human soul.

For the force and the beauty of the protagonist, whom we follow without passing judgement, and whom we feel so close to, in spite of the fact that the world she belongs to is so very far from our own.»

Special mention of the Jury

The International Jury: Long Films wanted to give a special mention to:

YO

Matías Meyer

Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, 2015

«We decided to award a special mention to a film that surprised and moved us, and that brought us, with intelligence and tenderness, into the innermost being of a giant.»

SPECIAL JURY AWARD

This prize consisting of CHF 10,000 is awarded by the Swiss Authors Society (SAS) and Suissimage. It is bestowed on the director of the film chosen by the International Jury for the inventiveness of the screenplay and the direction, the rejuvenation of the cinematographic language, or the thematic and formal audacity shown.

This award goes to:

SEMANA SANTA

Alejandra Márquez Abella

Mexico, 2016

«For the sensitivity and the power of the mise-en-scène. For the talent of the whole cast and direction and the ability to immerse us completely, with all our senses.»

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THE AUDIENCE AWARD

This prize, consisting of CHF 5000, is supported by FIFF and Banque Cantonale de Fribourg and awarded to the director of the film selected by the audience.

This award goes to:

BLANKA

Kohki Hasei
Japan, Philippines, Italy, 2015

THE ECUMENICAL JURY AWARD

This award (CHF 5000) is conferred jointly by two development-cooperation organisations, Action de Carême (Catholic) and Pain pour le Prochain (Protestant), to the director whose film best reflects the values upon which these two organisations base their support to the struggle of poor populations in African, Asian or Latin American countries. Members of this year's Jury are:

Pierre Bühler (CH), Roland Kauffmann (FR), Valérie de Marnhac (FR), Laure Speziali (CH)

This award goes to:

ALIAS MARIA

José Luis Rugeles
France, Argentina, Colombia, 2015

«We decided to present this award to the film that we felt best highlighted these challenges to contemporary life, to solidarity and to compassion, in the most universal manner possible, through the choices made by its protagonist in her refusal to give up and in her capacity to disobey authority.»

THE FIPRESCI JURY AWARD

Awarded by a Jury of members of the International Federation of the Cinematographic Press, this prize aims to promote the cinema as an art and encourage new and emerging films. Members of this year's Jury are: Irene Genhart (CH), Djia Mambu (BE), Eithne O'Neill (FR)

This award goes to:

SONG OF SONGS

Eva Neymann
Ukraine, 2015

«The FIPRESCI prize goes to a film that convinces through an enchanting and poetic blend of images, words and sounds. Set in a community with its traditions, the story deals in a subtle way with the attempt to preserve a childhood love. The young director has succeeded in moving us by her portrayal of a steadfast woman.»

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THE YOUTH JURY AWARD COMUNDO

Conferred by COMUNDO and amounting to CHF 5000, this prize is awarded by the Youth Jury. It aims not only to give young people a say in the Festival, but also to highlight a film that takes into account the problems faced by youngsters in today's world. It is bent on awakening students and apprentices to the irreplaceable means provided by films – beyond mere diversion – to discover the riches of other cultures and to learn tolerance and justice. Members of this year's Jury are:

Elerin Eelmäe (EE), Angélique Eggenschwiler (CH), Indira Koller (CH), Tina Odermatt (CH), Nessima Dridi (FR), Hélène Bennès (FR)

This award goes to:

HAIR

Mahmoud Ghaffari
Iran, 2016

«After a long and difficult deliberation, we decided to give an award for a noble struggle. We were touched by the head-on approach that the director took in making narrative choices, which succeeded in moving us beyond the violence of the subject matter. From light heartedness to alienation, with rage and obstinacy along the way, we follow the trajectory of three young girls whose dreams collide with the deafness of institutions. A film that asks questions, takes a rebellious stand, and may herald a society that is in transformation.»

THE DON QUIJOTE AWARD OF THE FICC/IFFS

One of the major aims of the International Federation of the Film Societies (FICC/IFFS) is to discover and diffuse major films. To this end, the IFFS has created Discovery, an international network of cinematographic diffusion, which is intended to allow the public to have access to films that are habitually missing from the distribution or from the programming in movie theatres. Members of this year's Jury are:

Aida Antonino Queralt (ES), Bernadette Meier (CH), Nirmala Shrestha Gongaju (NP)

This award goes to:

MOUNTAIN

Yaelle Kayam
Israel, Denmark, 2015

«We decide to give the Quijote Award from the International Federation of Film Societies to a film, which shows a powerful female role. The description of the couple protagonist becomes universal. As well as the symbolism derivative from the context and the way how the main protagonist, the Jewish orthodox woman, confront it. And the unexpected end could be shocking for the audience, but that gives them the key for understand the story of the film.»

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INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION: SHORT FILMS

BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM AWARD

The Best International Short Film Award, which is sponsored by FIFF, recognises innovative, independent film-making by emerging young talent. The Short Film Jury will award the CHF 7500 cash prize to the winning director.

Jury: International Competition: Short Films

The members of the International Jury: Short Films of the 30th Fribourg International Film Festival are:

Marie-Elsa Sgualdo, Switzerland (filmmaker)

Corinna Weiss, Switzerland (artistic director)

Annina Wettstein, Switzerland (programmer)

This award goes to:

ICEBERG

Juliana Gómez

Cuba, 2015

«Iceberg represents a true encounter between a director who observes the world around her and Teresa, who is trying to call her own shots. Unmasked and naked, Teresa struggles not to sink into despair, her view of life being closely interlinked with death. Hypersensitive, she calls family relationships into question, specifically disaffiliation and a belief system which, while seemingly far removed from our own lives, is a poignant portrait of life in general and the love for those around us – something that can be knocked down, and yet rise anew. With ample room for poetry, Juliana Gomez transports us to a Cuba that dreams of a better future, closer to nature, where rituals are the very essence of life, and hope is indispensable.»

CH CINEMA NETWORK PRIZE

Prize money of CHF 3000 is awarded to the best short film entered in the International Competition. It will be awarded by a new jury of CH Cinema Network students from Lausanne and Zurich universities, ECAL, HEAD and ZHDK. Based on an exchange between universities, higher education establishments and filmmaking institutions, this national programme combines hands-on instruction and university teaching. Members of this year's Jury are:

Valentin Merz HEAD (CH), Lora Mure-Ravaud ECAL (FR), Wendy Pillonel ZHDK (CH), Sabrina Schwob UNIL (CH), Elâ Tahmaz UZH (DE)

This prize goes to:

MR. ALFREDO

Vitor Souza Lima, Venâncio Batalhone, Marcelo Santos

Brazil, 2015

«The film is distinguished by its lightness and apparent innocuousness that is, nevertheless, a reflection of the social and political reality of Brazil. And yet, the film never reaches the tipping point into a dramatic or heavy-handed depiction.

We found the character very touching and humorous in his sincerity, the way he sees the world, and his contradictions. He is incensed with society, grumpy and full of criticisms, but deep down, he is authentic and a person with a capacity for true generosity.»