



Festival International  
de Films de Fribourg

32<sup>e</sup> 16 > 24.03 2018

Press release  
24 March 2018  
**EMBARGO: 19:30**

## Risk-taking pays off at FIFF

***Black Level*, a parable without words by Ukrainian director Valentyn Vasyanovych, won the Grand Prix at the 32nd Fribourg International Film Festival on Saturday and 30,000 Swiss francs from the Canton and Municipality of Fribourg. The International Jury voted unanimously to reward its original and artistic risk-taking. The Special Jury Prize (supported by SSA and Suissimage) was awarded to *After My Death*, the first film by the South Korean Kim Ui-seok, a social thriller produced within the framework of his studies at the Korean Academy of Film Arts in Seoul (KAFA). While the Youth Jury COMUNDO also rewarded this film, other prizes were shared between *The Seen and Unseen* by the Indonesian Kamila Andini and *Foxtrot* by the Israeli Samuel Maoz, which is shortly to be released in Switzerland. With the prize for Best International Short Film delivered to *Man of Pa'aling* by Filipina E del Mundo (with the support of Groupe E), the Foreign Visa Prize (supported by E-CHANGER and Fribourg Solidaire) given to *Les Heures-Encre* by Wendy Pillonel from Fribourg and *Puppy Love* by Margarita Mina who received the award of Réseau Cinéma Suisse, female directors feature heavily strongly among the winners. They are joined by Norwegian-Pakistani Iram Haq who won the BCF Audience Award for *What Will People Say*, soon to be released in Swiss cinemas. This prize list came at the end of an exceptional week for FIFF. In addition to Ken Loach's presence, attendance was up and the Festival registered more than 44,000 visitors. At the closing ceremony, Dominique de Buman, President of the National Council, praised festivalgoers who "fearlessly embraced the new ventures put forward by the festival organisers and Artistic Director Thierry Jobin in particular. His audacity and risk-taking have been rewarded with record attendance".**

Fewer films, fewer screenings, larger audiences. FIFF 2018 has likely developed a winning formula with a limited selection and fewer screenings increasing emulation between festivalgoers. More than ever before in the history of the event, the public found that screenings were full to capacity: more than 50 of 183 were full. The short and feature film competitions were celebrated as usual, alongside sections dedicated to the bicentenary of Nova Friburgo, to Mongolia and to biopics. "The locals and their guests have opened their minds to rare films, added Dominique de Buman. [...] I urge the organisers to continue with their boldly artistic choices. There is no question of them resting on their laurels!"

Ukraine, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea, Israel: despite the significant presence of films from the South and West of Switzerland, films from the East, from the Middle East to the Far East, have already showed their strength at previous editions of the Festival. Like *Black Level* and other prize-winning films, their strong – even risky – formal choices have paid off in the eyes of the juries, starting with that of the International Competition: Feature Films, comprised of Mongolian producer Ariunaa Tserenpil, Swiss-American documentary maker Alexandre O. Philippe, Singaporean director Boo Junfeng and their President, Franco-Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania.

"Award winners and such public success may recognise artistic choices, but above all they celebrate the commitment of all those involved in delivering what is arguably the most challenging festival to produce in every respect, making us stronger and giving us direction", concluded Thierry Jobin when presenting the closing film, Cuban comedy *Sergio & Sergei* by Ernesto Daranas Serrano.



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[Download the complete prize list](#)

33rd edition of the Fribourg International Film Festival, 15 – 23 March 2019

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