

# International Feature Film Competition

Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular feature films.

## Sesterce d'or la Mobilière (CHF 20'000)

**Best feature film**

*Punta Sacra*

Francesca Mazzoleni (Italy)

The last representatives of a resilient community who built their own houses. Kids and mothers living in a no man's land, a female universe looking for happiness in front of a sea they belong to, affirming their rights to live in an abandoned place they love. People torn between the desire to change and the need to stay put, asserting proudly who they are, post romantic fighters in a forgotten outpost.

## Jury Prize Région de Nyon (CHF 10'000)

**Most innovative feature film**

*Anerca, Breath of Life*

Markku Lehmuskallio and Johannes Lehmuskallio (Finland)

A film by a father and his son, a history of conquests and land exploitation we never heard of. A free reflection on colonialism on the magic foot steps of Jean Rouch. A film where ethnography is looking for a new mesmerizing language, giving us the complexity of reality. An hypnotic trip in the Arctic Circle, through dances, archival materials, voices from the past and from an uncertain present.

## Special Mention

*The Silhouettes*

Afsaneh Salari (Iran, Philippines)

A balanced, delicate and moving portrait of a second generation migrant, divided between the nostalgia from a motherland you never knew and a land that is still not yours.

*El Father Plays Himself*

Mo Scarpelli (Venezuela, United Kingdom, Italy, United States)

An intense hybrid film on an hybrid film, the process of filmmaking as a life process.

## Interreligious Award (CHF 5'000)

**Feature film that sheds light on issues dealing with meaning and sense of direction in life**

*Off the Road*

José Permar (Mexico, United States)

The director takes a head-on approach, sometimes with the skill of a racing driver, to tackling all the issues faced by changing societies: the roots that define the identities of people and communities, the relationships between generations as well as men and women, the different social, economic and political categories, and the desert environment of Mexico's Baja California, which plays host every year to a car race watched by thousands of fans. All of which is treated with humour and music for a project that will involve even more petrol heads.

# Burning Lights International Competition

An international competition dedicated to new vocabularies and expressions, to research and to narrative and formal experimentation (medium length and feature films).

## Sesterce d'or Canton de Vaud (CHF 10'000)

**Best medium length or feature film**

*The Other One*

Francisco Bermejo (Chile)

"Krapp remains a moment motionless, heaves a great sigh, looks at his watch, fumbles in his pockets, takes out an envelope, puts it back, fumbles, takes out a small bunch of keys, raises it to his eyes, chooses a key, gets up and moves to front of table. He stoops, unlocks first drawer, peers into it, feels about inside it, takes out a reel of tape, peers at it, puts it back, locks drawer, unlocks second drawer peers into it, feels about inside it, takes out a large banana, peers at it, locks drawer, puts keys back in his pocket."

Excerpt from the first moments of Samuel Beckett's play, *Krapp's Last Tape*

In its stark simplicity, this Beckettian account of living with one's ghosts is a splendid essay in aloneness, a tour-de-force for one man, and one of the most affectionate portraits of what it means to live with a mental illness that we have recently come upon.

## Jury Prize Société des Hôteliers de la Côte (CHF 5'000)

**Most innovative medium length or feature film**

*Pyrale*

Roxanne Gaucherand (France)

Like an eerie mirror to our present time, we felt enraptured by the intoxicating beauty of imperceptible danger of this touching account of falling in love in times when nature threatens to change everything we knew before. We are ingeniously drawn into an almost surreal world where fiction and reality collide and then begin to coexist.

## Special Mention

*The Disqualified*

Hamza Ouni (Tunisia, France, Qatar)

We would like to bring forth the extraordinary commitment of one filmmaker who has followed his character for the course of 12 years, in a rollercoaster of emotions and sometimes painful life events. This dedication and resilience are humbling and worth highlighting.

# National Competition

A competition dedicated to feature and medium length films (co) produced by Switzerland.

## **Sesterce d'or SRG SSR (CHF 15'000)**

**Best medium length or feature film**

*Sapelo*

Nick Brandestini (Switzerland)

The jury was particularly amazed by a film that immersed us in the luxurious nature of an island none of us heard about before. We were deeply moved by the dedication of the older generation living in this magical place to preserve a community, to maintain values and try to protect its children from the hardships of a world threatening their way of living.

## **Jury Prize SSA/Suissimage (CHF 10'000)**

**Most innovative feature film**

*Cows on the Roof*

Aldo Gugolz (Switzerland)

For its truthful and touching portrait of a man deeply wounded by the sense of guilt, struggling with his inner self and with the difficulties of a hard life in the mountain landscape of the Swiss Alps, a compelling tale of human redemption through love and work.

## **Special Mention**

*Privé*

Raphaël Holzer (Switzerland)

An imaginative film that transforms the touching relationship between a son and his aging father into a subtle investigation into the realms of fictional documentary.

# International Medium Length & Short Film Competition

Contemporary documentary filmmaking through a selection of original and singular medium length and short films.

## **Sesterce d'argent (CHF 10'000)**

**Best medium length film**

*Jungle*

Louise Mootz (France)

This film follows a group of women, friends and artists through their everyday joys and struggles with an impressive intimacy. A group who lives by their own norms and represents their own image of gender and culture by denying the usual societal gaze. Female and body empowerment, queer and cross-cultural. A film that challenges the system. Shot with a freedom, energy and unexpectedness that defies the norms of filmmaking. A Paris we have never seen represented on screen this way and want to see more of. A truly queer and feminist film with an unusual urgency.

## **Jury Prize Clinique de Genolier (CHF 5'000)**

**Most innovative medium length film**

*An Ordinary Country*

Tomasz Wolski (Poland)

For the film's exceptional ability to unleash new layers of meaning and rethink the gaze contained in images originally recorded in secret and to stay secret, which the filmmaker manages to transform without making them lose their importance as documents of an era, and in the process reminding us of the consequences of citizen surveillance that, today, is exercised more than ever in History.

## **Special Mention**

*Trouble Sleep*

Alain Kassanda (Nigeria, France)

The jury wishes to give a Special Mention to a film that observes the everyday life with the poetry of a choreography where the street life creates a microcosm of the society.

## **Sesterce d'argent Fondation Goblet (CHF 5'000)**

**Best short film**

*My Own Landscapes*

Antoine Chapon (France)

This jury wishes to award a film that is born of an exceptional ability to make poetry out of images usually used to train people for war. We go into the head and feelings of someone who confines himself to heal the traumas caused by a war simulator. The film does not only denounce the apparatus that uses these images to propagate toxic masculinity, to manipulate young people into violence and to normalize war, but it also masterfully succeeds in subverting these very same images to portray an individual process: the only way of self healing is the creation and appropriation of a virtual nature and its beauty which becomes a place of freedom, denial of orders and self determination.

# International Medium Length & Short Film Competition

## Special Mention

### *Bella*

Thelyia Petraki (Greece)

For its mastery in playing with time and memories, creating an archive of intimate images that are nostalgic and political.

## Youth Jury Prize Mémoire Vive (CHF 2'500)

**Most innovative short film**

### *On Hold*

Laura Rantanen (Finland)

For the originality of its cinematographic apparatus, because it deals with various current and important subjects, and for its touching aspect which succeeds in transmitting multiple emotions.

## Grand Angle – Audience Award

Feature films that have already wowed audiences at other festivals or that shall mark the coming year.

## Sesterce d'argent Prix du Public Ville de Nyon (CHF 10'000)

**Best feature film**

# Opening Scenes

A section dedicated to first short films or student films. The invited filmmakers present their films as part of the Festival's official selection and participate in a specially developed programme of industry-related professional activities.

## IDFA Talent Award

**Invitation to IDFA's next edition to participate in a tailor-made programme within the IDFA Industry and training activities (travel & accommodation included).**

### *The Golden Buttons*

Alex Evstigneev (Russia)

A film of great creativity, in which images and sounds are beautifully arranged, offering an invitation to imagine the inner world of its young subjects.

## Tënk Award

**Purchase of distribution rights and an editing residency at the Village documentaire of Lussas (Ardèche–France) for the filmmaker of the awarded film**

### *Without You, Without Me*

Adèle Shaykhulova (France, Russia)

We were moved by this film which talks clearly about distance and remoteness. A film in which relationships and emotions are permanently borne by digital tools: there is always a Skype or a WhatsApp somewhere. Beneath an apparent simplicity, this is a film that succeeds in talking of love, family and mourning in a very contemporary way, namely in a world where, by being everywhere, perhaps we are actually nowhere.

## Meta Cultural Foundation Award

**Slon Residency (Romania)**

### *Mat and Her Mates*

Pauline Pénichout (France)

This year, the Slon Residency award is awarded to a film which touched us with its proximity to the characters, for the way in which the director manages to enter the intimacy of the subject while keeping a humble attitude, a presence–absence that brings her protagonists to the forefront. The Meta Foundation commends the visual form which is in harmony with the narrative weave, a manner of filming the feminine body with sensuality yet without objectivising it, from a woman's point of view.