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9. - 16. OKTOBER 2021



INTERNATIONALES
FILMFESTIVAL

CHEMNITZ

Award Winners

The 26th SCHLINGEL International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences drew 17,000 visitors to the cinemas - at these special times.

The top prizes went to Belgium, Bangladesh, Russia and Iran.

193 films from almost 50 countries were screened during the festival week, with more than 200 to follow by the end of the year.

More than **70 festival directors and programmers, journalists and distributors** from all over the world as well as **children and young people from different countries in Europe** were involved in the "**Club of Festivals**", the **expert juries**, the **Chemnitz children's, junior and youth juries** as well as in the **European Children's Jury**. After the restrictions in 2020, we were extremely pleased to welcome most of them back on site in Chemnitz. All others had the chance to view the films of the festival via a special online platform, which was only accessible to jury members.

Not only the juries, but also filmmakers visited the IFF SCHLINGEL and thus the Capital of Culture 2025 in large numbers, bringing a large portion of internationality to the various venues. Where attendance was not possible, live broadcasts were made on a specially erected LED wall.

THE WINNERS OF THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCHLINGEL

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Jury: Fabian Driehorst, AG Animationsfilm; Egmont Elschner, Chairman Cultural Advisory Board City of Chemnitz; Tanja Tröger, DIAF; Ines Wolter, Filmwerkstatt; ZOFIA / Sophie Stephan, Filmverband Sachsen

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// AWARDS OF THE EUROPEAN CHILDREN'S JURY

European Children's Film Award by the Saxon Ministry of Culture

endowed by the Saxon State Ministry for Science & Fine Arts

SPACEBOY

Belgium, 2020

Directed by: Olivier Pairoux

Justification:

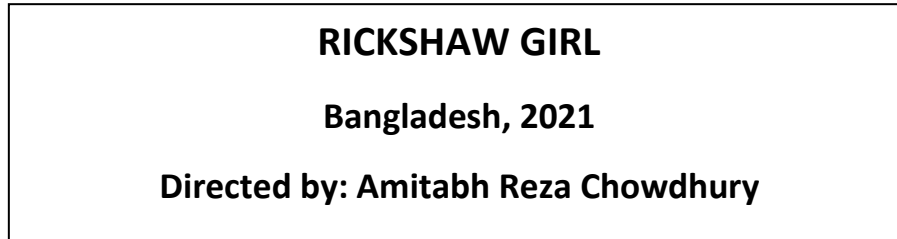
The winning film delighted us with its various facets and its different story set in the 80s. The young main actor convinced us with his funny, bright and crazy way. The music was perfect for the scenes and deepened the emotions. We learned a lot about astronomy and physics. The theme of love and romance was not neglected. Thus we award the "European Children's Film Prize of the Saxon Minister of Art" to the film SPACEBOY.

Honorable Mention:

VINSKY AND THE INVISIBILITY POWDER | 2021 | Finland | Juha Wuolijoki

SLM Top Award

endowed by the Saxon State Institute for Private Broadcasting and New Media SLM



Justification:

Naim/a sits deathly sad high up in the high-rise shell above Dhaka. She sleeps here because she has no place to stay. The security guard catches her again and has to throw her out, but first comforts her. Three sentences between the two that sum up life there: "This city of Dhaka looks so beautiful from up here. And when you're down and close - so ugly. Not for those who have found their purpose. For them, even the ugly is beautiful."

In the film, we see Naima, a young, strong, creative woman from the provinces around Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Wherever possible, she paints beautiful, colorful nature paintings. In contrast, she experiences physical and mental brutality in the neighborhood in a traditionally patriarchal society, as well as a class society with few "above" and most "below." When Naima's father collapses under the weight of his beloved rented rickshaw, a lot of money is needed so that he can be treated at all and does not die.

Plot Point 1: Naima goes to Dhaka to earn money for her father's treatment, and she plunges into the deepest depths of society in the process. As a rickshaw driver, she is not accepted in the male-dominated society, so she cuts off her hair, slips into a pair of men's pants, and transforms from Naima into Naim. With her artistic talent she embellishes the rickshaw and becomes more and more successful. Until the brutal low point that leads her to the skyscraper. Plot Point 2 allows her talent for painting to blossom, she discovers a gap in the market. Naima becomes a sought-after artist. A courageous fate - full of colors, tears, dirt, brutality and finally: success. Cinematically very close to the heroine. Exciting for young people, but also for adults. With beautiful animations in Naima style.

Award of the City of Chemnitz

endowed by the city of Chemnitz

SUN CHILDREN

Iran, 2020

Directed by: Majid Majidi

Justification:

Many aspects play a role in the selection of individual films. It's the overall package that counts: What relevance does the film have? Which problems are addressed and how are they transferred? Aesthetic elements as well as the technical realization play a role. How is the story told and how is this narrative realized on film? How do images and dialogues work? What remains when we leave the cinema? What emotions, images and thoughts do we take with us?

It was not an easy decision. We, the jury of Feature Films International, decided on a visually stunning and emotionally stirring story that allows us to look at a distant society as if through a burning glass. For a film that has been grandiosely realized and cast with incredibly talented young actors. For a film that addresses many themes at once and yet never feels overloaded. For a film that shows a reality that seems to be far away from us and yet is very close.

We live in a world where media transfers these foreign worlds and ways of life into our living rooms. We can't look away and pretend that this other world doesn't concern us at all. In any case, the film manages to make us realize clearly that all children are created equal and deserve education and encouragement. That all children should have a chance for education and perspectives in their lives and the right to be protected and cared for. We, as the jury of Feature Films International, have chosen the Iranian film "Sun Children" for the prize awarded by the City of Chemnitz. We could not help but award this film by director Majid Majidi. The incredible depth of the narrative, the complexity of the story, the impressive images, the great performance especially by the young actor Rouhollah Zamani convinced us.

MDR Special Award

endowed by the public broadcaster MDR

LITTLE WARRIOR

Russia, 2021

Directed by: Ilya Ermolov

Justification:

The SCHLINGEL festival has once again shown this year: The life of many children worldwide is hard. Mom or dad are away, the schoolmates are bullying and the hardest struggle is often with oneself: Who am I, what do I want, who can I be. Here, most SCHLINGEL films give a clear answer: it's worth attacking. Then there is also a happy ending. So does the hero of the film that is to be awarded a prize today.

He is a real SMALL FIGHTER. He lives in the Russia of today, is a bit more than average in everything and doesn't really fit in anywhere. He is a bit too big and a bit too cheeky. Not to give too much away at this point. Everything revolves around a lost father, a new girl at school and an unusual martial art. The film convinced us, the jury, in many ways. First, there's the striking cast: cool kids with memorable faces and fresh acting. There are the images and the soundtrack: they tell a modern Russia in total cityscapes with interwoven comic elements and fresh beats.

But above all, it's the story that convinces. Find something you enjoy, find the right attitude and fight for it. Then you will be good. But suddenly: the break. The Corona pandemic happens. Our protagonist is thwarted, is no longer allowed to fight - representing an entire generation. Representative also for the film crew. They continue anyway, use the pandemic and rewrite the story. The message: There is always a bit of a fight - and you can lose it. But if you don't even try, you definitely won't win. So in the end, everyone wins: our protagonist a happy ending, the audience an encouraging film, and the film an award. The title "Best European Special Children's Film" of the Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk goes to the Russian production LITTLE WARRIOR.

DIAMANT – Award for Best Child Actor

Kristín Erla Pétursdóttir

(BIRTA)

Iceland, Deutschland, 2021

Directed by: Bragi Thor Hinriksson

Justification:

In the past days we were allowed to see many wonderful films from different countries of the world. We were able to take a look at societies unknown to us, were in the present, but also in the past. And we have undertaken adventurous journeys together with the young heroines and heroes.

In all these films, one young actress in particular stood out to us and remained in our memories. She was able to convince us with her believable acting that she experiences and goes through exactly what her character experiences. She surprised us with her ideas, her tenacity and with her musical and athletic talents. We were able to observe her friendships, recognized emotions and empathy. We were especially convinced by her portrayal of vulnerability, disappointment, but also joy.

The heroine of this film always remains honest and does not give up. We saw and empathized with her big heart and sense of justice especially through the close-ups of her face. At 11 years old, we saw her as a self-confident girl who responsibly takes care of her younger sister. After overhearing her mother on the phone, our heroine sets a lofty goal for herself: she tries to raise money using a wide variety of adventurous methods. After all, should Christmas really be cancelled this year just because her mother is in a financial crisis? We were particularly touched by her desperate search for her lost wallet. Big challenges for the heroine. For those who don't know it yet: Her name is Birta! I am very pleased to award the DIAMOND - Best Child Actress Award 2021 to Kristin Erla Pétursdóttir as Birta in the Icelandic feature film of the same name. We are already looking forward to seeing you in many more movies or series soon.

// AWARD OF THE YOUTH JURY

Supported by the broadcaster MDR

VACARME

Canada, 2020

Directed by: Frédérick Neegan Trudel

Justification:

"You're just doing your job. You're not interested in me at all. Nobody cares about me."

Yes, we do. We, the youth jury, are interested in you. And not only for you, but also in your story, your suffering, your ruckus. Because we all have ruckus in our lives. Whether at school, with friends, or in the family - like Émilie.

Émielie's story is one that leaves no one cold. Characterized by violence and love, hate and longing, past and present. In Frédérick Neegan Trudel's film, we see how a young girl is emotionally manipulated by her mother. In the process, the mother is conflicted about herself and her relationship with her daughter. After all, how can you give love if you can't love yourself?

Does Émilie really need her mother to be happy?

The film convinces us with its authenticity, the unbelievable acting performance especially by the young leading actress Rosalie Pépin, and the much too little discussed subject matter.

It was especially the emotionality that the film brings with it, which stirs up the innermost and makes you think. Whether positive or negative family image, VACARME touches.

What the film team has achieved with this film, not many manage. We as the jury were all moved, although - or precisely because - we all come from very different families.

VACARME - passionate, emotional, authentic. That's why we, this year's youth jury of the 26th International Film Festival SCHLINGEL, chose the film as the award winner.

Because no matter how alone you feel, there is always someone who cares about you.

Honorable Mention:

A BRIXTON TALE | 2021 | UK | Darragh Carey, Bertrand Desrochers

// AWARD OF THE JUNIOR JURY

SPACEBOY

Belgium, 2020

Directed by: Olivier Pairoux

Justification:

We are this year's junior jury from the Johannes Kepler Gymnasium Chemnitz - Alfred, Charly, Christoph, Lacey, Manuel, Markus. In our favorite it is about a boy who has lost his mother. He moves to a new town where the inhabitants and his classmates find him strange. But this situation changes in the near future.

What convinced us was that the film is very well shot and the plot touched us. The music is great as it transmits moods and the actors were authentic and convincing in their roles.

The message that the film delivered was family, friendship and love. Also, the movie shows that children should make their own decisions and parents need to give freedom to children. However, this should only be done to a healthy extent.

Do you already have an idea which movie we mean? If you don't have an idea yet, here's a little hint: A boy who has a talent for astrophysics.

He is the only one who doesn't see a fragile girl in his classmate.

The boy has realized his dream despite various setbacks. This year's Junior Jury Award goes to SPACEBOY.

// AWARD OF THE CHILDREN'S JURY

<p style="text-align: center;">KIDS ARE FINE South Korea, 2021 Directed by: Lee Ji-won</p>

Justification:

This week we watched ten fantastic films made by children for children.

There were three films that we particularly liked and found emotionally moving. Our favorite is a film that touched us for the following reasons:

It showed the everyday life of a family in a realistic way and dealt with a serious topic that is not often addressed in children's films. We found it true to life and almost forgot that there was acting.

The film showed us that it is possible to overcome even the most difficult hurdles and that you are not alone. That is why we are now happy to announce:

The winning film of the 26th SCHLINGEL Festival 2021 in the category "Children's Film" is called: KIDS ARE FINE by Lee Ji-won.

// AWARDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL JURY FEATURE FILM NATIONAL

Children's and Youth Film Award of the Goethe-Institut

endowed by Goethe-Institut

DARKDREAMERS

Germany, 2020

Directed by: Philipp Klinger

Justification:

The Children's and Youth Film Award of the Goethe-Institut goes to a film that touched the jury with its special courage - the courage to find a cinematic form for a topic that is still difficult to talk about, not only in Germany. In strong and sometimes daring images, the director tells the story of how a family deals with the loss of their brother and son.

The repression and numbing of the pain puts the family to a great test. Only the burgeoning doubt and the young protagonist's questions about responsibility show a way out of their speechlessness. The convincing screenplay creates a continuous build-up of tension. The intense acting of all actors and actresses, but especially of the two young protagonists, gets under the skin, it is authentic, moving and testifies to a very deep examination of the topics of self-harm, mental suffering and suicidal thoughts. In its relevance, this feature film-debut addresses both a youth and an adult audience. Our prize goes to DARKDREAMERS by Philipp Klinger!

Honorable Mention:

WET DOG | 2020 | Germany | Damir Lukacevic

DEFA Foundation Award

SAMI, JOE AND I
Switzerland, 2020
Directed by: Karin Heberlein

Justification:

The DEFA Foundation's award goes to director Karin Heberlein for her feature film SAMI, JOE UND ICH (Switzerland 2020). The flickering of summer is treacherous, hopes and expectations are all too often disappointed by the vagaries of life. A very early shot, a blurred view through a curtain, already hints at this - one of the few images to be read metaphorically in an otherwise straightforwardly staged and narrated film. The protagonists Jocelyn, Samira and Leyla, three 16-year-old schoolgirls from migrant families in a Zurich suburb, finish their school days full of anticipation. The camera follows their steps into life in an unagitated manner and with an observational gesture.

The promise of freedom, however, remains only an illusion: Sami's parents, traumatized by the Bosnian war, control the girl fiercely and eventually send her to Bosnia. Joe is sexually attacked and abused by her boss in her first job. Very discreetly and subtly staged is just this scene of the crime against the 16-year-old; the emotional impact is all the more haunting as a result. Leyla, herself trapped in a rigid apprenticeship, searches for ways out with and for her friends. The three young women (and with them we as viewers) are thus faced with significant questions: Who can one confide in, how can one communicate? How should one face traumatizing experiences? There are no easy answers, quick solutions even less.

Despite these bitter events, however, the film conveys itself in a thoroughly positive manner, above all refraining from any sentimentality. Thus, even the pastel-colored sunset towards which Joe and Leyla move at the end of the film by no means suggests a trivializing, idyllic resolution of the conflict, but rather confirms the powerful statement of the film (put into the mouth of Leyla, the "I" of the title, at the beginning and again at the end) that we must always keep more dreams in our hearts than life can destroy.

// AWARD OF THE PROFESSIONAL JURY SHORT AND ANIMATED FILM

Animated Feature Film Award

endowed by the German Institute for Animated Film DIAF

EVEN MICE BELONG IN HEAVEN

Czech Republic, France, Poland, Slovakia, 2020

Directed by: Jan Bubeníček, Denisa Grimmová

Justification:

What makes life? Two mortal enemies, the daredevil mouse Flitzi and the shy fox Whitebelly, land involuntarily in heaven. Chained together, they conquer paradise and face their fears and prejudices. In an exciting change of rhythm, the director tells a poetically and humorous story that moves to tears and is fun in equal measure. The harmonious unity of puppet animation and 3D animation holds little life lessons for both children and adults in colorful scenic images and lovingly designed characters. Playfully and unobtrusively, the film brings the audience closer to the constant cycle of becoming and passing away. The Schlingel price for the best long animated film goes to EVEN MICE BELONG IN HEAVEN by Jan Bubeníček.

// CLUB OF FESTIVALS AWARD CHILDREN

THE APE STAR

Sweden, Mexico, Danmark, 2020

Directed by: Linda Hambäck

Justification:

In an atmospheric and moody animation, we are taken on a delightful little journey exploring justice, prejudices, friendship, love and the spirit of adventure. The film takes its audience seriously and portrays a compelling cast of characters ranging from sly council officials to gentle gorillas and caring orphans. Humor, warmth and seriousness go hand in hand in a film that is equally compelling for young and old. The winner is The Ape Star by Linda Hambäck.

Honorable Mention:

KIDS ARE FINE | 2021 | South Korea | Lee Ji-won

// CLUB OF FESTIVALS AWARD JUNIOR

EVEN MICE BELONG IN HEAVEN

Czech Republic, France, Poland, Slovakia, 2020

Directed by: Jan Bubeníček, Denisa Grimmová

Justification:

At a time when there is so much division in the world, it's important to put a spotlight on a film promoting the acceptance of difference, and the forging of new, unexpected friendships. Some big, philosophical questions are tackled in an accessible, non-didactic way with some wonderful moments of humour and a light touch throughout. Connection, understanding and communication are presented in a visually beautiful, technically skillful production that will lead to valuable discussion between the various age groups in the audience.

Honorable Mention 1:

SUN CHILDREN | 2020 | Iran | Majid Majidi

// CLUB OF FESTIVALS AWARD YOUTH

VACARME

Canada, 2020

Directed by: Frédéric Neegan Trudel

Justification:

The award winning film of the Club of Festival Youth tells a story about difficult family relations, friendship and music as a healing force. The emotional Coming-of-Age-Film about growing up shows how it is to realize what is good for you. Step by step the main character learns how to deal with life. What we see is a small but strong every day hero, amazingly portrayed by the main actress. It is with great pleasure that we award Vacarme with the prize of the Club of Festivals, section Youth.

Honorable Mention:

YUNI | 2021 | Indonesia, Singapore | Kamila Andini

// ECFA-AWARD

NIGHT FOREST

Germany, 2021

Directed by: André Hörmann, Katrin Milhahn

Justification:

This engaging film takes the audience to the emotional and suspenseful adventure of self-discovery and friendship. It is a well played drama with authentic feel of growing up and beautiful depiction of male bond and relationship. The story uses genre and folklore elements in an inventive way and grows into an allegorical journey of pursuing one's dreams and of facing one's fears and grief. The jury also loved the intertextuality of the film which was formed by popular film culture references and influences from films like „Stand by Me“, „Indiana Jones“ and „Star Wars.“ The award goes to NIGHT FOREST by Katrin Milhahn and André Hörmann.

// AWARD OF THE FIPRESCI-JURY

MY VERY OWN CIRCUS

Canada, 2020

Directed by: Miryam Bouchard

Justification:

We had the great pleasure of watching 14 films that brought us into very rich universes and allowed us to follow the journeys of amazing characters. But there is one film that we unanimously chose to give the FIPRESCI award to. This is a film that portrays a broken single parent family, a recurrent topic this year. It also shows the difficulty for this parent and this kid to get along together, yet at the same time caring a lot for each other. We follow the journey of the kid trying to make their own choices and to become their own person.

The acting in this film is amazing for both the parent and the kid, as well as for some of the supporting characters. And most of the characters have great psychological depth. The story is beautifully written, and the directing, including the mise-en-scène and the cinematography, brilliantly serves this story. It is a film full of poetry, one of the few that made us laugh a lot, but also moved us a lot. The film is a reflection on conformity and the need sometimes to fight against it. It is also a beautiful lesson for tolerance. At the beginning of the film, the kid has to be responsible and play the role of the parent. But when the parent finally takes their responsibility as parent, the kid is allowed to be a kid again. The film brings us to an unusual universe and is a wonderful tribute to the art of clowning.

// AWARD OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

MY VERY OWN CIRCUS

Canada, 2020

Directed by: Miryam Bouchard

Justification:

Laura has always been on the road, as assistant of her father, a professional clown. But at 13, she wants a more stable life and mostly, to go to school regularly. And maybe also to oppose her father. With bright images, sets and scenes full of poetry, the director subtly unfolds a scenario full of humor, twists and turns, sorrows and small victories. Thanks to the friendship of a neighbor and the kindness of a teacher, Laura will finally be able to continue her studies, without losing the fantasy of her previous life. It is with delicacy that the film shows the difficulty of being a parent and letting children live a different life: we can love each other without being alike. Our emotional life is a circus and we all are clowns!

// AUDIENCE AWARD CHEMNITZ

A BRIXTON TALE

UK, Ireland, Germany, 2021

Directed by: Bertrand Desrochers, Darragh Carey

// AUDIENCE AWARD ZWICKAU

BEST BIRTHDAY EVER

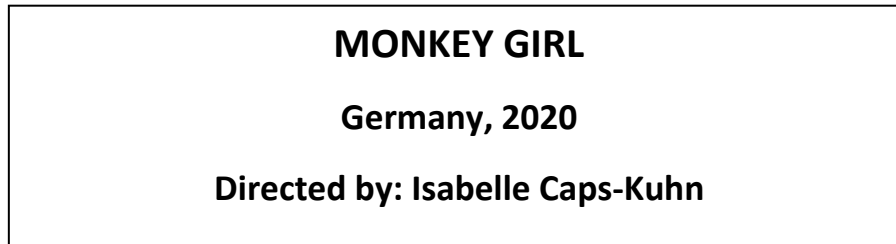
Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, 2021

Directed by: Michael Ekblad

// AWARDS SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Short Film Award National

endowed by Filmverband Sachsen (500 Euros)



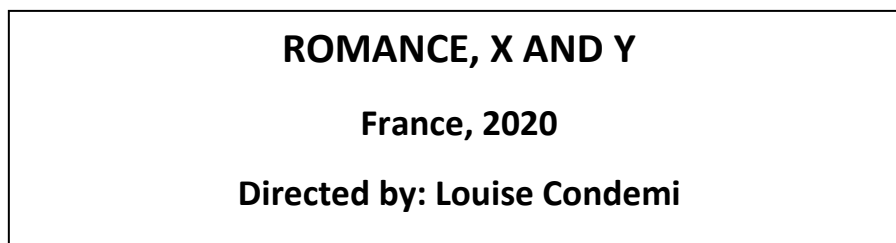
Justification:

A rodent – characterized by contrary readings like dirty and disgusting, but also intelligent or a familiar pet – and a wild girl with halflong hair lead into a film which directly takes us into a world of children and teenagers, where adults have no place. Authentically played characters are talking, in a relaxed manner, about ambivalent relationships and topics like friendship, sexuality, and break stereotypical role models apart. A high-rise estate and winding secret places in a warm color scheme build the scenery of the well observed and lovingly designed children film. These twenty-four minutes are not only snapshots but they give us an insight into the microcosm of childhood and adolescence in all its facets.

The national shortfilm award in the category motion pictures goes to MONKEY GIRL by Isabelle Caps-Kuhn.

Short Film Award International

endowed by Filmverband Sachsen (500 Euros)



Justification:

Twentyeight years old is the director of the film for a young audience for fourteen years and older, and her vicinity to the topic “first love” and desire, just as dramatic as speechless, is clearly visible in the direction. The characters are convincing, authentic and captivating. Even in the first lovescene of the two protagonists, the viewer feels the realistic differences and suffers with them. While the heroin wishes for a romance, she is just a conquest for the hero without deeper meaning. It hurts her feelings und she speaks out loud and confronts him, leaving him behind as a loser. With her aggressive alter ego and three MacBeth-like seers, she moves forward. The film hardly needs any music, its imagery and image composition does justice to the tricky topic and captivates.

The jury acknowledges the price international shortfilm: ROMANCE, X AND Y.

Honorable Mention

DUBKI | 2021 | India | Aalap Tanna

Short Film Award Animation National

endowed by AG Animationsfilm (500 Euros)

THE ABC OF BREAKUPS

Germany, 2021

Directed by: Susann Hoffmann

Justification:

The award in the category national animation goes to one of the shortest films in the competition, which, within three minutes, was able to put a smile on the viewer's faces and brightened the atmosphere consistently. After a painful break up, it often helps to look at the valley of tears with humor and self-irony. Susann Hoffmann is able to do exactly that: In the form of a song with lyrics full of puns and through a charming animation, the film shows us that self-care and the support of friends and family is the most important thing in that situation. The Award for the best national Short-animationfilm goes to THE ABC OF BREAKUPS by Susann Hoffmann.

Honorable Mention:

OBERVOGELSANG | 2020 | Deutschland | Ferdinand Ehrhardt, Elias Weinberger

Short Film Award Animation International

endowed by AG Animationsfilm (500 Euros)

YOU SOLD MY ROLLER SKATES?

France, 2020

**Directed by: Margaux Cazal, Jeanne Hammel, Louis Holmes, Sandy Lachkar, Agathe Leroux, Léa Rey--
Mauzaize**

Justification:

For the main award in the competition shortfilm animation international, the jury chose a film which is pure animation. This film can only be told as an animationfilm. In associative compositions, he is forming rhythm, dramaturgy and movement to a story, which corresponds to the Zeitgeist of the subject matter, inspiring us and leaving us speechless for a while. We are happy to award the outstanding animation talents Margaux Cazal, Jeanne Hammel, Louis Holmes, Sandy Lachkar, Agathe Leroux, Léa Rey—Mauzaine for their film "You Sold my Roller Skates?".

Honorable Mention:

MUM IS POURING RAIN | 2021 | France | Hugo de Faucompret