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INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

CHEMNITZ

FF-SCHLINGEL.DE

PRESS RELEASE:
THE WINNERS

The 27th International Film Festival for Children and Young Audiences SCHLiNGEL was able to attract 20.000 visitors to the venues in Chemnitz und Zwickau. This means that the festival attracted 3.000 more guests than last year.

The main awards went to the Netherlands, to Germany, Tunesia, Argentina and Spain.

Michael Kretschmer, Prime Minister of Saxony and patron of the festival, looks back on the festival week. "Art and culture enrich, touch and shape our lives from childhood onwards. The international film festival "SCHLiNGEL" contributes to this in a wonderful way. It stands for energy, creativity and exchange. I warmly congratulate all the prize winners and thank everyone who has contributed to the great success here in Chemnitz, in Europe's Capital of Culture 2025, once again this year."

Over all 159 films from 60 countries were screened in the festival week and the unstream events in Zwickau. In the next weeks, nearly 300 films are going to be shown in the context of the different additional events, like „SCHLiNGEL on Wheels“.

Over 60 festival directors and programmers, journalists and distributors from all over the world as well as children and young people from various European countries were involved in the "Club of Festivals", the various expert juries, the Chemnitz children's, junior and youth juries as well as in the European Children's Jury. We are pleased that we were able to welcome the majority of our guests on site in the European Capital of Culture 2025. All those who were unfortunately unable to do so were given the opportunity to view and evaluate the festival films via a special platform accessible only to jury members.

Of course, not only jury guests were part of the 27th SCHLiNGEL. We also had the pleasure of welcoming numerous film guests from all corners of the world, from actors to directors to producers, to present their films to a wide audience and thus ensure shining children's eyes. Where attendance was not possible, live broadcasts were made on a specially erected LED wall.

THE WINNERS OF THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCHLINGEL

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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

BIGMAN

Netherlands, Germany, 2022

Directed by: Camiel Schouwenaar

Justification of the European Children's Jury:

The winning film convinced us with an exciting, but also dramatic story. It is a story that completely thrilled and captivated us from the very beginning. It should be a motivation for young people to always look for new ways. Even if it seems hopeless. We should never lose sight of our goals. Give hope no matter what happens in life. If we believe in ourselves, we can move mountains. Through the authentic acting of the young leading actor, but also sadness and compassion have transferred to us. He is an inspiration for many people with physical handicap. For his family, friends and sports passion, he never gave up the fight. With his creativity and strong will, he created a very special way of kicking. There was no perfect ending, but it felt just right for us! So we award the "European Children's Film Award of the Saxon Minister of Arts" to the film BIGMAN.

// AWARDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL JURY FEATURE FILM INTERNATIONAL

SLM Top Award

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

A SECOND LIFE

Tunesia, 2021

Directed by: Anis Lassoued

Justification:

Petty crime and class differences, youthful self-confidence between parental upbringing, paternalism and love, a painfully missing father who went missing on the sea route from Tunisia to Europe, or simply disappeared. In this dramatic field of tension, director Anis Lassoued tells the story of 12-year-old Gadeha. With his two buddies, they commit brutalities and thefts on the beach. His "second life" begins when he has an accident while fleeing from the police. His hospital treatment is paid for by a wealthy family, and Gadeha is taken into their estate with his mother and sister. However, at the high price of a kidney "donation" to his son Oussama, who is about the same age, thus saving his life. The two develop a friendship, but this does not prevent Gadeha from repeatedly breaking out to his old "friends" - to the despair of his mother and the disappointment of his new pal Oussama. Also fundamental is the probable loss of his father at sea, which Gadeha repeatedly feels painfully and refuses to accept. When the two boys realise that the kidney transplant was kept secret from their parents and that they were lied to about it, drama ensues. They were treated as objects by the adults.

In this poignant film, the bow and arrow with which they threatened themselves and their parents become a symbol of life, as expressed by the Lebanese-American painter, philosopher and poet Khalil Gibran (* 06.01.1883, † 10.04.1931):

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.
of life for itself.
They come through you, but not from you,
And though they are with you, they are not yours.

You may give them your love,
but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may give their bodies a house,
but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit,
not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them,
but do not try to make them like you.
For life does not run backwards
Nor does it dwell in yesterday.

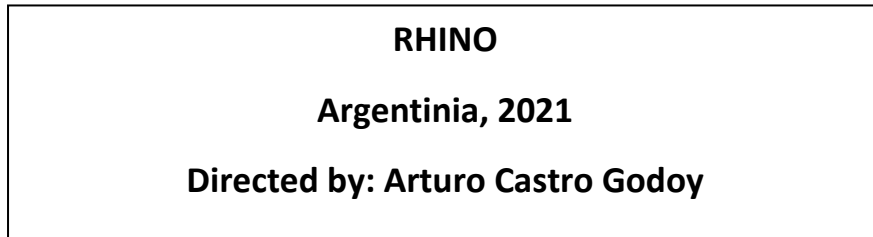
You are the bow from which your children are sent forth as arrows.
Let your rounding of the bow mean joy in the shooter's hand.

At the end of the film, Gadeha lowers the bow as a weapon and shoots the arrow into the water. The end remains open. Director Anis Lassoued has dedicated the film to the young people who are the future of northern Africa. He hopes that they will shape the future of their countries and not go or have to go to Europe. But they are like arrows sent out...

The Feature Film International jury awards the main prize of the Saxon State Media Authority (SLM) in the amount of 10,000 € to Neues Leben/ Gadeha - A Second Life by Anis Lassoued for its high authenticity, visual and dramaturgical density and the power of its characters. The prize is intended to promote the distribution of the film in Germany through dubbing. This corresponds to the film promotion task of the Saxon State Media Authority / SLM in the Saxon Private Broadcasting Act; and with the funds of approx. 15,000 € for the festival exceeding the prize, also to the task of promoting media competence.

Award of the City of Chemnitz

endowed by the city of Chemnitz



Justification:

Children who are neglected - emotionally and physically - are everywhere in this world. Young people who have to take responsibility for themselves and their future into their own hands far too early, but who do not yet have the maturity and life experience to actually live up to such responsibility. Young people who long for warmth and security and channel their fears and worries in the form of violence.

It is our responsibility as a municipality to intervene and offer these children a perspective again. We have the task of creating structures and providing suitable personnel to fulfill this task. In reality and now also in fiction.

Young people who are neglected, abused, left alone in their families: Yes, they exist everywhere in this world. In Germany as well as in Argentina. And there are also social workers who are active in their profession and sometimes beyond. There is a Damian somewhere in this world and hopefully for every Damian in this world there is also a social worker like Leandro.

The prize of the city of Chemnitz in the amount of 5,000 euros goes in 2022 for the great implementation of a difficult, transnational and cross-border theme to the Argentinean film RINOCERONTE by director Arturo Castro Godoy and the young actor Vito Contini Brea.

MDR Special Award

endowed by the public broadcaster MDR



Justification:

This year, too, we were able to experience watching many SCHLINGEL competition films: Kids can have it pretty tough.

Or, to put it in the words of a friend of the protagonist of our winning film: "Being the new kid in the neighborhood is really bad. But being in this neighborhood, at this time, is hell."

Especially when you're rather anxious, have parents who are busy with their own problems, and your loopy grandfather isn't really any help either. Around it, hostile street gangs, racism, poverty, the loss of loved ones. And as if all that wasn't enough, Halley's comet appears, which only appears in the sky every 75 years and is now stirring things up energetically.

All this is OLIVERS UNIVERSUM. Not a simple story, but rather a complex one, which inspired us, the jury of Spielfilm International, not only with its wealth of ideas, but also on many other levels.

There is the cast, who play this rousing family story warm-heartedly and authentically.

There is the setting of the 80s, which gives the impression that we are dealing with a STRANGER THINGS from Andalusia.

There are many small and large fantastic elements that permeate reality and we wonder: what is true, what is not. A bit of magical realism that we can use right now. It's an uncomfortable world out there, perhaps more so today than in decades past. A little immersion can do some good.

And finally, there is the message: universal, simple: it's family, it's friends, and it takes courage - then life and the universe will work out.

In its complexity, we, the jury, believe OLIVERS UNIVERSUM is a story that can bring many generations together.

It consistently tells the story from the children's perspective, awakens memories of the glorious 80s in the parents, and bows to all the grandparents of this universe.

In the best sense: a remarkable piece of family entertainment, which has the potential to become a real adventure classic.

The special award of the MDR for the Best International Children's Film (garnished with many stars) goes to OLIVERS UNIVERSUM from Spain. Congratulations.

DIAMANT – AWARD FOR BEST CHILD ACTOR

Maciej Karas
(TOO OLD FOR FAIRYTALES)
Poland, 2022
Directed by: Kristoffer Rus

Justification:

To give an award for the best actor, the best actress was not easy, because we have seen so many young talented children and teenagers in the films again this year. They all took us into their world, showed us their feelings and gave us the opportunity to experience the stories in the cinema seats, to laugh with them, to cry, to be angry or to rejoice with them. Thank you all for giving the characters a face and making them come alive.

One performer especially impressed us this year. With him we could live through all these feelings.

You can feel his sadness and his fear when he finds out that his mother is seriously ill. You feel with him when he beams at his crush, you suffer with him when his friend betrays him. And you can understand why he is so annoyed by his aunt, who turns his comfortable life upside down.

The 14-year-old Maciej, who embodies Waldeck or Waldusch in the film "Who still believes in fairy tales?" succeeds in convincing in his first big film role.

It is a joy to see how Waldeck, with the help of his crazy aunt, develops from a mummy's boy into a strong personality and takes responsibility for himself.

and takes responsibility for himself. Maciej plays Waldeck wonderfully normal and at the same time so special. He impresses with his authentic and expressive acting in every scene of the film.

And last but not least, it takes a great deal of courage to slip into the role of a totally spoiled, unathletic 11-year-old boy who is still taken by the hand by his mother when crossing the street, who, wearing a brightly colored bathing cap and swimming shirt, is pushed down the swimming pool slide by his movie aunt and, of course, lands on his crush, who can't jump over the obstacle in gym class, and who has to do his rounds on a rickety bicycle while his aunt, as trainer, yells down commands from the high-rise building.

So that Waldeck can do his rounds on a really cool bike in the future, we're awarding Maciej Karas the prize for best performer at SCHLINGEL 2022.

// AWARD OF THE YOUTH JURY

Supported by the broadcaster MDR



Justification:

How does it feel to be different? How does it feel to be discriminated against? How does it feel not to accept oneself?

The film deals with these topics and presents them to the viewer in a frightening, authentic and realistic way. The main character has to deal with issues like false friends, discrimination and racism in her everyday life. The biggest problem is the lack of self-acceptance. The only way out of this dreary and dark life is dancing.

Dancing allows the viewer to dive into another world, where the main character also tries to escape her ego and everyday life. But this presents the main character with new challenges and conflicts with her family.

The film remained in our memory mainly because of its realistic dialogues, music and outstanding acting performance. The director takes the viewer on an emotional journey between self-hatred and emancipation and encourages them to think and critically question everyday habits.

The film is the antithesis turned into reality of the quote "The blacker the berry, the sweeter the juice" The winner in the youth film category at the 27th international film festival SCHLINGEL is the film "White Berry".

Honorable Mention:

DR. BIRDS ADVICE FOR SAD POETS FILMNAME | 2021 | USA | Directed by: Yaniv Raz

// AWARD OF THE JUNIOR JURY

THE SLEEPING BEAST

Estonia, Latvia, 2022

Directed by: Jaak Kilmi

Justification:

Our favorite is about a boy whose name we don't want to reveal right now. He is part of a group consisting of five people and the little sister of one of the girls in the group that they always have to watch out for. This group has known each other all their lives; they all live on the same block. The children often play in an abandoned factory until an older man is assigned there to watch over the private property. There are many rumors surrounding the man, for example, he is said to be an excessive drinker and pervert. But these views will change when the children realize that the overseer falls into a hole after he tried to chase them off the property once again. Instead of helping him out, however, they leave him there to starve for several days, as they would suffer extreme consequences that scare them. A boy wants to help, but he does not dare. But what else very dramatic happens now, you ladies and gentlemen should see for yourselves. Why did we choose this film? We like it very much that the film is about friendship and betrayal and thus makes you think. The music supported the film very appropriately and rounded it off. The actors play very believably and give their characters a special touch. The camera angles also impressed us and you could see that a lot of thought went into it. The fact that the perspective is always changed made us feel like one of the characters. We think it's very good that the director wants to use the film to call on children to act according to their own moral sensibilities and not according to peer pressure. Of course, the decision between all these inspiring films was not easy. Meeting the directors and main actors of a few films was also very fun and gratifying. Nevertheless, we decided that today's winner is "Sleeping Beast" by director Jaak Kilmi, from Estonia and Latvia.

// AWARD OF THE CHILDREN'S JURY

THE SEEKERS – THRILL NIGHT

Denmark, 2021

Directed by: Philip Th. Pedersen

Justification:

We've seen a lot of movies this week and each one was impressive in its own way. Our favorite stands out above all for being meaningful, realistic, exciting, and appealing especially to young audiences. It is not lacking in humor either. The actors play very convincingly, as you can tell that they put their heart and soul into their work; that, above all, is what impressed us about this film. The music is well done. Ladies and gentlemen , the moment you have all been waiting for:

The winner is Scary Halloween by Philip Th. Pedersen.

// FAIR PLAY JURY

DR. BIRDS ADVICE FOR SAD POETS

USA, 2021

Directed by: Yaniv Raz

Justification:

Besides, the whole aesthetic of the movie, we really enjoyed the acting and fantastic scenery. it talks about very common serious problems in our generation, for example anxiety and other social disorders.

Therefore we would like to give the SCHLINGEL to DR. BIRDS ADVICE FOR SAD POETS by Yaniv Raz from the USA.

Honorable Mention:

MOTHERHOOD | 2022 | Spain | Directed by: Pilar Palomero

// AWARDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL JURY FEATURE FILM NATIONAL

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

endowed by Goethe-Institut

THE ORDINARIES

Germany, 2022

Directed by: Sophie Linnenbaum

Justification:

Every child comes into the world innocently and looks forward to it with confidence. Until at some point it becomes clear that the world is full of suffering and injustice. Who makes such a world? And what can we do about it?

This year, the Goethe-Institut's Children's and Youth Film Award goes to a film that encourages independent thinking, questions systems and exposes injustice. It emphasizes that change can start with one person and that it is the responsibility of all of us to demand visibility and recognition for marginalized groups.

In doing so, the film wraps its social critique in a highly original cinematic language and a metaphorical narrative style that makes it possible to address these issues in different contexts around the world - which is especially important for the cultural work of the Goethe-Instituts abroad. Thus, the film is convincing both thematically and in its extraordinary cinematic realization. Our prize goes to THE ORDINARIES by Sophie Linnenbaum!

DEFA Foundation Award

THE CROSSING

France, Germany, Czech Republic, 2020

Directed by: Florence Mialhe

Justification:

For the socio-political relevance and the extraordinary design of her film LA TRAVERSÉE/DIE ODYSSEE, the DEFA Foundation's sponsorship award goes to Florence Mialhe.

A dystopia in a fictional country at an indeterminate time, but frighteningly similar to the realities of both the past and the present. If the screenwriter Marie Desplechin calls this a fairy tale and the film's ending suggests a fairy-tale way out of an inescapable situation, the story of the teenagers Kyona and Adriel, however, reflects an almost true image of bitter realities of our lives: escape, expulsion, loss of relatives, home, hope and trust. When the director began preparing the film, the immense relevance of this story could not yet be foreseen.

We do not encounter a staged war drama, but an animated film with compellingly time-consuming oil-on-glass paintings and without computer animation. A tremendous round dance of movement and colors that define the content and intensify the emotions, giving the viewer the impression of something previously unseen.

// AWARDS OF THE PROFESSIONAL JURY SHORT AND ANIMATED FILM

Animated Feature Film Award

endowed by the German Institute for Animated Film DIAF

DRAGON PRINCESS

France, 2021

Directed by: Jean-Jaques Denis, Anthony Roux

Justification:

The careful preselection of the SCHLINGEL Festival Team regarding the 2022 Edition in the category "Best Animated Feature Film" confronted the Jury with a big bouquet of complex themes, various genres and with all of the many different magical techniques that the medium of animation is offering today. We encountered bees, who discussed the unheard idea of a vacation, we saw the wings of Icarus getting burned by the sun, we saw spiders flying kites in the lazy afternoon sky, we learned about the Interiors of dancing lions. Even our journey to a highly irritating island opened our eyes to new and exciting ways of visual storytelling: to boldly go where no filmmaker has gone before, to see out new things, that can only be found in the realm of animation.

The award for best animated Feature Film 2022 honors a Film who pulls all the strings of the art of animation. Who deconstructs old stereotypes and themes, throws everything into the creative air and constructs a fresh new tale full of wit and humour. With a big homage to the heroes of the field, Walt Disney, Osamu Tezuka and Hayao Miyazaki, the directors Jean-Jaques Denis and Anthony Roux found their own unique voice.

The SCHLINGEL 2022 for best animated feature film goes to DRAGON PRINCESS!

// AWARDS OF THE CLUB OF FESTIVALS

Club of Festivals Award Children

MINI-ZLATAN AND UNCLE DARLING
Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, 2022
Directed by: Christian Lo

Justification:

Colourful and humorous, in a turbulent and charming way the film show us how a girl have to learn, that her beloved uncle not belongs only to her. She must make the painful experience to accept boundaries. At the end, she get the best thing in the world: she knows what friendship really means. A wonderful film for children AND adults!

So the winner is MINI-ZLATAN AND UNCLE DARLING.

Club of Festivals Award Junior

RHINO
Argentina, 2021
Directed by: Arturo Castro Godoy

Justification:

The jury would like to commend the Schlingel team for once again presenting a powerful range of high quality films for junior audiences, and it should be noted that our decision was a very close thing between several different titles. But in the end our vote was for a film that chose to look at a difficult situation in which a young character finds themselves through no fault of their own, and who must learn to live with other people's decisions about their direction in life. Surrounded on all sides by adults (equally well presented as real people living with similarly difficult circumstances), our protagonist learns to find his own voice and finally has an opportunity to make his own life-altering decision. With terrific performances (especially by the young lead actor), a challenging script asking some big questions and a satisfyingly emotional climax, the award goes to Rinoceronte.

Club of Festivals Award Youth

SO DAMN EASY GOING

Sweden, Norway, 2022

Directed by: Christoffer Sandler

Justification:

Funny. Cringe. Sad. The sense and poetry of first love. Young acting talent Nikki Hanseblad wins the Youth Jurys heart in the role as Joanna dealing with ADHD, stealing from drugdealers, coping with sorrow after her mothers death - and falling in love. The film scenes in water, the swimming pool and the sea.. gave us goosebumps - and brought us to the heart the characters strength and will with respect and grace. Hanseblads performance is full of humor, perfect timing and nuance. Film director Christoffer Sandler's film "SO DAMN EASY GOING" wins the Club of Festivals Youth award at Schlingel International Filmfestival 2022 for best Youth film.

// ECFA-AWARD

THE CROSSING

France, Germany, Czech Republic, 2020

Directed by: Florence Mialhe

Justification:

Sometimes, terrible things happen in the world and many times children are the victims. We saw a movie about two children, who were forced to leave their home, struggling to survive under severe conditions but didn't lose their hope. This film was an artistic attempt to tell a strong story with an extraordinary animation that has captivated us from the beginning. The ECFA jury of Schlingel film festival chose to give the award for feature film to the film "The Crossing – La Traversée" by Florence Mialhe.

// AWARD OF THE FIPRESCI-JURY

RHINO

Argentina, 2021

Directed by: Arturo Castro Godoy

Justification:

Through Vito Contini Brea's acting and Arturo Castro Godoy's directing, the film depicts life, friendship, and most importantly, how to pick oneself back up after falling. For its unique framing, original story that pushes the boundaries of what children's and youth's movies can be, The FIPRESCI award of the 27th International Film Festival for Children and Young Audience SCHLINGEL goes to "Rinoceronte" by Arturo Castro Godoy.

// AWARD OF THE ECUMENICAL JURY

THE CROSSING

France, Germany, Czech Republic, 2020

Directed by: Florence Mialhe

Justification:

Kyona, the female protagonist, tells of the raid on her home village, the family's escape, the loss of her parents and younger siblings. Together with her brother Adriel, she embarks on an odyssey to reach the continent of freedom beyond the sea. As an universal escape story the animated film, realised in strong and colorful hand-painted oil-on-glass images, tells a stirring and multifaceted story of flight and migration, exploitation and violence, solidarity and friendship – and of growing up.

Honorable Mention:

RHINO | 2021 | Argentina | Directed by: Arturo Castro Godoy

// AUDIENCE AWARD CHEMNITZ

THE WEBSTERS MOVIE

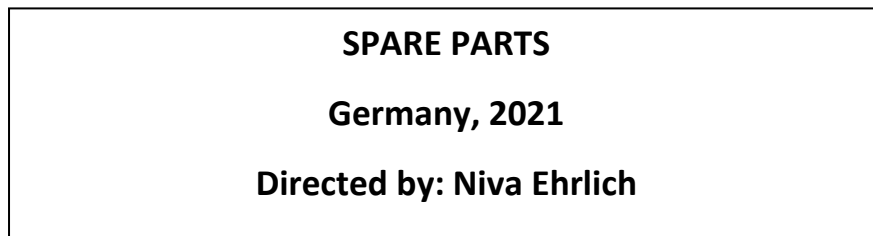
Slovakia, Czech Republic, 2022

Directed by: Katarína Kerekesová

// AWARDS SHORT FILM COMPETITION

Short Film Award National

endowed by Filmverband Sachsen



Justification:

A good movie consists of four parts: a thrilling topic, convincing actors, a beautiful scenery and honest dialogues.

Niva Ehrlich's „Spare Parts“ has all of them. The movie brings a seldom considered theme into the social and cultural spotlight: Organ donations, or children who rely on such. Lina's desperation and insecurity invite the viewer to think about, how one would feel and act in that kind of situation. The protagonist shows impressively, how the children, when having just the right parts, find clever solutions for problems, through cooperation, empathy and honest.

The „Short Film Award National“ goes to Nina Ehrlich for her movie „Spare Parts“.

Honorable Mention:

THE WATER SOMMELIER | 2021 | Germany | Directed by: Ryan Wichert, Noémi Dabrowski

Short Film Award International

endowed by Filmverband Sachsen

WHEN THE SWALLOWS FLY AWAY

Belgium, 2021

Directed by: Sébastien Pins

Justification:

„Look at how beautiful she is...“ Ferdinand's words are not directed to his wife Andree, but to a beautiful cow, that for many years has been grazing on the old couple's field. The director takes us in a world, which seems in order. Astounding images of nature, animals and humans, who have set up their life on this small piece of earth. Where the boy Niklas feels comfortable, too; when working with the animals and also when saying farewell.

In a calm manner, accompanied with powerful images, the movies tell a story of an episode out of a life, just like it could occur anywhere in the world, that concerns everyone, makes us feel a bit melancholic, but in the end puts a smile on our faces.

The director achieves to depict, that saying farewell is a part of life. Even if it just saying good-bye to an animal.

The „Short Film Award International“ goes to Sebastian Pins for his movie „When the Swallows Fly Away“.

Honorable Mention:

IN DREAMS | 2021 | Finland | Directed by: Pete Riski

Short Film Award Animation National

endowed by AG Animationsfilm

LAIKA & NEMO

Germany, 2022

Directed by: Jan Gadermann, Sebastian Gadow

Justification:

When good story-telling and technological implementation come together, they create a dramaturgical masterpiece, which fascinates the viewer from the first images beyond the credits. The film-critic Rogert Ebeert defines films as an empathy-machine, that, in its best moments, makes us laugh, cry and think. Without a doubt is Laika & Nemo one of those great moments. The team around Sabeastian Gadow and Jan Gadermann accomplished a perfect animated narrative with a tremendous attention to detail.

The "Animated Short Film Award National" goes Jan Gadermann & Sebastian Gadow for their film "Laika & Nemo."

Honorable Mention:

MONKEY DOMINO | 2021 | Germany | Directed by: Ulf Grenzer

Short Film Award Animation International

endowed by AG Animationsfilm

LUCE AND THE ROCK

Belgium, France, Netherlands, 2022

Directed by: Britt Raes

Justification:

Just to make one thing clear, animations are not a genre, animations are mediums. To make such an outstanding film, all aspects of the brain, technological skill-fullness and social awareness must be incorporated. The story-line seems simple: Something uncomfortable happens. Almost all affected arrange themselves, get used to it, but one small person decides to get to the root of the problem. Director Britt Raes accomplishes visual story telling on the very highest level in an animated world, in which, in the glow of a flash light, new worlds open. This is paired with an appealing message encouraging curiosity, bravery and action in the viewer.

The “Animated Short Film Award International” goes to “Luce and the Rock” by director Britt Raes.

Honorable Mention:

PIG | 2022 | Netherlands | Directed by: Jorn Leeuwerink