

FANTOCHE

INTERNATIONALES FESTIVAL FÜR ANIMATIONSFILM
BADEN/SCHWEIZ

JURY STATEMENTS: WINNER FILMS FANTOCHE 2016

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Jury: Jeanette Bonds (US), Geoffrey Lillemon (NL/US), Vullnet Sanaja (Kosovo), Katja Schmid (D), Georges Schwizgebel (CH)

BEST FILM

Before Love, Igor Kovalyov, RU 2015, 19'15"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/love-o>

Love leads us down many false paths and this drama knows them all: passion and jealousy, subterfuge and revenge, wistfulness, fury and death. Those who regret their infidelity, those who refuse to let go of pain, those who are lovesick – all fall victim to misfortune. But the end of one love marks the beginning of another. And true love still awaits.

Jury laudation: "The jury chose this film for its perfection of sound, image and editing. With a richness and care of detail it carries us into the deep meanders of the feelings love and jealousy. It could perfectly illustrate Jacques Lacan's definition of love: giving what you do not have to someone, who does not want it."

HIGH RISK

Monkey, Jie Shen, CN 2015, 5'09"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/monkey>

A scene is stripped down to its constituent parts. A plot is dissected into a multitude of snapshots. A trap, a blow from behind: individual details combine to form an overall impression and the correct sequence gradually reveals itself. Cold-blooded brutality in slow motion. The impact, the scene. And another life is extinguished.

Jury laudation: "Jie Shen creates a moment of harmonious calm – which she then abruptly destroys. Within a matter of moments, the fragmentary experimental film reaches its intense emotional peak. With its shockingly unexpected archaic brutality and fascinating one-of-a-kind visual aesthetic, the film MONKEY leaves plenty of room for interpretation."

NEW TALENT

Forever, Zhong Su, CN 2016, 17'

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/forever>

An opulent tapestry of images leads the viewer through a digital paradise across post-industrial landscapes into the ruins of a dystopian city, where a marionette controls a totalitarian machine which swathes a community in grey tones. When the mechanism breaks down, the involuntarily freed inhabitants demand the return of the police state that kept them safe and secure for so long.

Jury laudation: "This film is a glimpse into internet dystopia – very modern – and uses techniques and visual language that is very current and relevant to what is happening to our perception in the ethernet era, it's a critique on all of our 21st century senses gone mad, nightmares and mutations turning the

FANTOCHE

clock back and forth like a timeline puppet controlled by Zhong Su, the new talent from dialed in hell. ”

BEST SOUND

Any Road, Boris Labbé, Daniele Ghisi, FR 2016, 10'04"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/any-road>

An abstract wonderland is formed through contemporary composition, speech fragments, a game of Pong and distorted video material. The film adaptation of a live performance for orchestra, electronics and projection uses algorithmically linked sound melodies and image fragments to create a maelstrom that is difficult to resist.

Jury laudation: "Throughout the course of our discussions, one film in particular stood out for its pronounced sound. The sound in this film is complex and on its own carries with it cinematic characteristics. The music and sound change pace throughout the course of the film in a manner that resembles sophisticated visual editing and this lends toward a refined yet emotional cinematic experience."

BEST VISUAL

Among the Black Waves, Anna Budanova, RU 2016, 11'10"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/among-black-waves>

According to an old legend from the north, the souls of the drowned transform into seals. A hunter steals the skin of one of these mythical creatures, which prevents it from taking to the water. Instead, it becomes the hunter's wife. They live a good life together and have a daughter. But her longing for the sea cannot be satiated.

Jury laudation: "The beauty of black and white, the clever metamorphoses and the expressiveness of the movements seduced the jury. This film tells a story, leaving a lot of free space to the spectator. It charmed us with the mix of violence and sensuality."

INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE AWARD

Mr Madila, Rory Waudby-Tolley, GB 2015, 8'37"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/mr-madila>

This attempt to make an animated documentary about a voodoo spiritual healer goes off on a tangent a few times and teeters without warning between a re-enactment and mockumentary with entertaining consequences. In addition to providing help for cases of impotence, practising black magic and dealing with the immigration authorities, Mister Madila advises film makers on how to develop a story.

INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL MENTION

LÖSS, Yi Zhao, NL/CN 2016, 27'58"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/loess>

In the rocky landscape of the Löss plateau, a woman is sold to a farmer for a sack of potatoes. The bleak existence of the couple leads the farmer to alcohol and violence. The stripped down, gradual storytelling style of the film renders the spiritual hardship of the woman and her oppressive life in the small cabin almost physically tangible.

FANTOCHE

Jury laudation: "The witty use of dark colors that intertwine with the claustrophobic representation of space, deliver the message to the audience on many different levels. A message sourced by a tragic reality, from the suffering and despair of a woman, a brutal part of a man, sourced from the impoverished **way of living, which leads to the abuse of one's power over the other.**"

HONORARY AWARD OF BADEN

Blind Vaysha, Theodor Ushev, CA 2016, 8'14"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/blind-vaysha>

The parable of a girl who sees the world through two very different eyes: with the left, she can only see the past, while with the right she can look into the future. Although her eyes are open, she is not able to see the present and lives like a blind person.

SWISS COMPETITION

Jury: Konstantin Bronzit (RU), Julie Charnay (FR), Mark Shapiro (US)

Youth Jury (Swiss Youth Award): Marion Fredembach, Nicolas Moreau (Lausanne), Claudia Campoli, Edoardo Nerboni, Olmo Spinedi, Charlotte Stamm (Tessin), Beth Barnes, Daniel Byrne, Yuchen Chang (Wettingen)

BEST SWISS

Das Leben ist hart, Simon Schnellmann, DE/CH 2015, 3'

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/das-leben-ist-hart>

Life is not fair. In brief episodes, a few strokes are all it takes to get to the heart of various absurd moments.

Jury laudation: "We chose this film for its absurd humor, brilliant timing, and minimalist style. Its efficient content and form impressed us immensely. This is why we love animated films. All artistic elements are present here. It is bold and powerful."

HIGH SWISS RISK

Analysis Paralysis, Anete Melece, CH 2016, 9'04"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/analysis-paralysis>

A man's head is bursting with thoughts and decisions. A gardener is about to explode – somebody has trampled on her flowerbeds. The man is looking for somebody who is better at playing chess than his dachshund. The gardener is looking for a mysterious vandal who is missing a yellow boot. In the end, they might just be looking for the same thing.

Jury laudation: "There is something delightful and colorful in every frame of this film. It is an inventive, fresh take on complicated psychological themes as it explores issues of loneliness and isolation with humor, which in itself is bold and risky. Even given the theme, the director did not compromise style regardless of the potentially dark subject matter."

NEW SWISS TALENT

Novembre, Marjolaine Perreten, FR 2015, 4'

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/novembre>

FANTOCHE

A hedgehog, a stoat and other animals are getting ready for hibernation when they are hit by very strong rain. All of the animals try to save themselves any way they can from the rising water. And some of the animals notice that they are in the same boat.

Jury laudation: "Student work and yet poetic style: without any music or strong effect, we were taken by this journey. And we really want to see more from this young director."

FANTASTIC SWISS

One, Two, Tree, Yulia Aranova, CH/FR 2015, 6'50"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/one-two-tree>

A tree takes the opportunity to borrow the boots of a hiker sleeping under its boughs and embarks on an adventurous excursion. On the way, it meets all sorts of friends who follow along – whether by choice or not. Together they turn their everyday existence upside down.

Jury laudation:

1. „It is a celebration of animation: We were moved by the unique character style, animation formats as well as its clever and subtle use of sound.
2. The story is original, it took us to new places and we were transformed by the journey, music and visuals.

Tree. We loved the environment and production design."

SWISS YOUTH AWARD

Hypertrain, Etienne Kompis, Fela Bellotto, CH 2016, 3'35"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/hypertrain>

A cat and a child move elegantly between speeding trains and cross dimensions and planes only to encounter one another again in space, motion and time.

Jury laudation: «We enjoyed the film due to its simple, yet effective visual style. We were intrigued by the dimensionless world, in which it takes place.»

SWISS SPECIAL MENTION

Au revoir Balthazar, Rafael Sommerhalder, CH 2016, 9'30"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/au-revoir-balthazar>

A winter storm breaks the only leg of a ragged old scarecrow who is persistently tormented by the weather. Freed from its fixed existence, the scarecrow leaves its unlive life behind and follows its desires. Thus begins a slow-moving chase across the fields and an unsteady journey through the forest and the seasons.

Jury laudation: "The parable is unique with its strong, dreamy and sensitive effects. We were intrigued by the journey – and the characters within it."

SWISS AUDIENCE AWARD

Analysis Paralysis, Anete Melece, CH 2016, 9'04"

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FANTOCHE

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KIDS FILM COMPETITION

The films were judged by a jury of seven children aged between 6 and 12 which awarded the "Best Kids" prize. The kids were supervised by "Zauberlaterne". The award is given for the 8th time this year.

BEST KIDS

L'arbre, Lucie Sunkova, FR/CZ 2015, 14'30"

An oak tree stands tall through the seasons. And life goes on.

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/larbre>

Jury laudation: "We chose L'ARBRE because...

...we liked the story. (Olivia)

...we liked how it was made, how the pictures were painted. (Lina)

...we think it's really fascinating how everything was painted on glass. (Elias)

...we think it's interesting that the tree finds a friend and doesn't have to be alone anymore. (Larissa)

...we think it's brilliant that the images are always flowing and never still. (Jan)

...we think it's beautiful that the story is sometimes sad and then happy again. (Emil)

...we find it exciting that both stories run parallel to each other and that the young tree and the child are born at the same time. (Anjali)"

CHILDREN'S AUDIENCE AWARD

Taking the Plunge, Elizabeth Ku-Herrero, Nicholas Manfredi, Marie Raoult, Thaddaeus Andreades, US 2015, 6'42"

<http://fantoche.ch/en/film/taking-plunge>

What makes a marriage proposal authentic? An attractive but dull couple and an expensive ring, or inner qualities?