

PRESS RELEASE

Jihlava, October 29, 2022

**WINNERS OF THE 26TH JI.HLAVA IDFF HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED!**

The 26th Ji.hlava IDFF has announced its winners. The award for the most notable international documentary film was granted to *07:15 – Blackbird* by Judith Auffray, the best Czech documentary is *Kapr Code* by Lucie Králová. The jury of the Testimonies section appreciated *Into the Weeds: Dewayne "Lee" Johnson vs Monsanto Company* by Canadian director Jennifer Baichwal. The award for original approach went to Spanish director Javier Codesal for his film *Greater Gospel*. The Contribution to World Cinema award was granted to director Dušan Hanák.

**Opus Bonum: 07:15 – Blackbird**

**Opus Bonum**, a section representing contemporary international documentary production, showed a selection of sixteen films. The five-member jury selected the film *07:15 – Blackbird* by **Judith Auffray**. “A simple, honest yet multi-sensory experience, this film draws us back to the mystery of our existence, while conveying ways of connecting us, humans and nonhumans, with a profound trust in the tools of cinema,” said the jury.

The film *07:15 – Blackbird* also won the Best Cinematography Award, which was taken home by Mario Valero. “For its elegant yet non-manipulative camerawork,” appreciated the jury.

The jury has also granted an award to **Best Film from the Region of Central and Eastern Europe**. It was given to Croatian director Damir Markovina for his film *Deserters*. “To confront the past is painful but fundamental. This raw but delicately constructed film brings forth traces of memory and conflict from Europe’s collective history,” said the jury statement. The authors of the winning film also receive a financial prize of 3,000 EUR in cooperation with the festival’s partner – Current Time TV.

The film *Deserters* is also the winner of the **Best Sound Design Award**, accorded to Miroslav Piškulić. “For intricately constructing the sound of memory,” said the jury members.

The Best Editing Award in the **Opus Bonum** section went to *Over Our Hills* by Swiss director Mateo Ybarra. “The film creates a multifaceted perspective on masculinity that intelligently progresses and reminds us that rhythm and beat are important in editing,” said the jury.

The film *Over Our Hills* also received the **Student Jury Award in the Opus Bonum** section. “The student jury selected a film that shows several journeys, both geographical and mental, that the protagonist undergoes. The film takes us on a journey using subtle, almost invisible, camerawork, the atmosphere enhanced with incessant voice messages. This is a film that has a journey in its title,” concluded the student jury.

The **Award for Original Approach** went to Spanish director Javier Codesal for his film *Greater Gospel*. “A collection of important testimonies that inventively combines different motifs and playfully echoes and subverts rituals of belief systems. Cinema is still very young and new approaches are open,” said the jury in their statement.

The **Best Debut Award** goes to *Bloom* by Canadian filmmaker Fanie Pelletier. “For its use of new media and cinematic language, exploring how it impacts the psychology of a new generation in terms of self, ego and vanity.”

**Testimonies: *Into the Weeds: Dewayne "Lee" Johnson vs Monsanto company***

The **Testimonies** section showed nineteen films. The jury granted the title of best documentary testimony to *Into the Weeds: Dewayne "Lee" Johnson vs Monsanto Company* by Canadian director Jennifer Baichwal. “The document brings a compelling argument to regulate Monsanto’s life-threatening chemical products globally by presenting its impact on population and environment,” says the jury statement.

The **first Special Mention** then went to *Rojek* by director Zaynê Akyol. “The reflection on the roots and consequences of fanaticism based on personal interviews with the former members of ISIS in detention,” said the jury.

The **second Special Mention** went to *Atlantic Ragagar* directed by Gilles Aubry. “A visual and aural documentary on the connection of the local community to the seaweed ecosystem, therefore ‘letting the subaltern speak’,” says the jury statement.

**Czech Joy: *Kapr Code***

**Czech Joy** showcased twenty-two Czech documentary films. The best Czech documentary is *Kapr Code* by director Lucie Králová. “This film gives joy through its original and sophisticated form. In a perfect symphony of all the components of its cinematic language, it tells a story of a forgotten and ambiguous character of Czech history” said the jury. The authors of the winning film also receive a financial prize of CZK 200,000 (EUR 8,200).

The **Special Mention** was granted to Veronika Lišková for her film *The Visitors*. “Confidence in artistic expression and the choice of subject and the simultaneous vulnerability of the heroine in an environment where nature and society are constantly changing” said the jury statement.

The **Best Editing Award** went to Šimon Špidla for the film *a-B-C-D-e-F-G-H-i-JONESTOWN* directed by Jan Bušta. “For the search for a new mode of expression through editing which aligns with radicality, playful subversiveness and the unconventional nature” concluded the section’s jury.

The **Best Cinematography Award** in the **Czech Joy** section went to cinematographer Jakub Vrbík for *Found by the One She Seeks*. “Its portrayal of intimacy and spontaneity, and the precision of its concentrated expression and visual poetry are what deeply appealed to us in this film,” said the jury.

The **Student Jury Award** went to *Happily Ever After* by Jana Počtová. “The documentary is full of intimate yet open testimonies and presents an accessible exploration of modern human relationships,” agreed the student jury members.

**Fascinations: *The Sound of Time***

The most remarkable documentary film in the **Fascinations** section for experimental films is *The Sound of Time* by Jeissy Trompiz. “(It) questions how imagery is derived from sounds,” said the family jury composed of Filipino filmmakers Roxlee and Lot.

Two Special Mentions have been awarded in the section. The first Special Mention went to director Felipe Mussel for the film *Spectrum Restoration*. "(It) combines audio and video with environmental awareness in a seamless way," stated the jury.

The second Special Mention was granted to Soh Boram for her film *The geometry of the hunter*. "(It) takes a novel approach in experimental film," said the jury statement.

#### **Exprmntl.cz: Glasswork**

The best Czech experimental title in the **Fascinations: Exprmntl.cz** is the title *Glasswork* by director Zdeněk Picpauer. "Highly specific subject with audio organically inherited," claimed the jury.

The first Special Mention went to *Kambium 1492* by Denis Kozerawski and Peter Kašpar. "Focuses on the historical significance of trees," said the jury.

The second Special Mention was granted to *The Landscape of Ashes* by Eliška Plechatová. "Embraces the potential of new form out of decayed material," says the jury statement.

The **Contribution to World Cinema Award** this year goes to director Dušan Hanák. His signature filmmaking style is highly inspiring also thanks to his courage and ability to pinpoint the substantial issues of the times, even at the cost of being banned and facing restrictions by the totalitarian regime. Dušan Hanák's films were critical mainly thanks to their consistent authenticity, combining experiments with casualness. Since 1992 he worked as a lecturer at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava where he substantially influenced the coming generation of directors," said festival director Marek Hovorka.

This year's **audience award** went to *Happily Ever After* directed by Jana Počtová.

The award for the best short doc in the **Short Joy** section went to director Lize Cuveele for her film *Blue Bed*.

The awards for the **Best Festival Poster** went to Taiwan International Documentary Festival 2022 and DokuFest International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2022.

#### **Silver Eye Awards 2022 by the Institute of Documentary Film**

The Institute of Documentary Film has given the Silver Eye Award 2022 for the best short film of the East Silver Market to *Avitaminosis*, directed by Kateryna Ruzhyna, during the Industry Awards Ceremony at the Industry Hub on Friday, October 28. The jury, composed of María Vera, Anna Feistel and Mathieu Janssen, stated: "The film allows us access to a personal, complex and multi-layered context where we find the protagonist in a state of inevitable insecurity. In an open and sincere way, the director navigates through her life, playing with contemporary aesthetics, using performative modes of self-representation and at the same time painting a broader picture of societies precarity and uncertainty especially for young generations. The Silver Eye Award 2022 goes to the bold and tender film Avitaminosis by Kateryna Ruzhyna."

The Silver Eye Award for the best feature film was given at the Closing Ceremony on Saturday, October 29, to Otilia Babara's *Love is Not and Orange*. The Special Mention went to *Plai. A Mountain Path* by Eva Dzhyshyashvili. The jury - Kathleen McInnis, Radu Sticlea and Christopher Small - stated: "Two films very different in approach. We see the sacrifice of mothers becoming

martyrs; saviours of family and country, and the passing of generational trauma. These films each speak through the child's gaze: one unfolding from a more formal approach to the present day, the other drawing on the archived past of both family memories and national collective history. We are awarding a Special Mention to Plai. A Mountain Path from filmmaker Eva Dzhysyashvili. The Silver Eye Award goes to Love is Not an Orange by Otilia Babara." The winning films received a trophy by Zdeněk Durdil, a prize money of 2500 € and a year-long festival service of the East Silver Caravan worth an additional 3500 €.

More information at [www.ji-hlava.com](http://www.ji-hlava.com) and on the festival's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) profiles.

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### **LIST OF AWARD-WINNING FILMS**

Films on the [Ji.hlava Online](#) programme are underlined.

#### **Opus Bonum**

WINNER: 07:15 - Blackbird

BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE: Deserters

BEST EDITING: Over Our Hills

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY: 07:15 - Blackbird

BEST DOCUMENTARY DEBUT: Bloom

AWARD FOR ORIGINAL APPROACH: Greater Gospel

BEST SOUND DESIGN: Deserters

STUDENT JURY AWARD: Over Our Hills

#### **Testimonies**

WINNER: Into the Weeds: Dewayne "Lee" Johnson vs Monsanto company

SPECIAL MENTION: Rojek

SPECIAL MENTION: Atlantic Ragagar

#### **Czech Joy**

WINNER: Kapr Code

SPECIAL MENTION: The Visitors

BEST EDITING: a-B-C-D-e-F-G-H-i-JONESTOWN

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY: Found by the One She Seeks

STUDENT JURY AWARD: Happily Ever After

**Fascinations**

WINNER: The Sound of Time

SPECIAL MENTION: Spectrum Restoration

SPECIAL MENTION: The geometry of the hunter

**Fascinations: Expmntl.cz**

WINNER: Glasswork

SPECIAL MENTION: Kambium 1492

SPECIAL MENTION: The Landscape of Ashes

**Audience Award**

WINNER: Happily Ever After

**Short Joy**

WINNER: Blue Bed

**Contribution to World Cinema Award:** Dušan Hanák

**Silver Eye**

Winner: Love Is Not an Orange

Special Mention: Plai. A Mountain Path

**Best Festival Poster**

Festival Identity – DokuFest, International Documentary and Short Film Festival

Audience Award: Taiwan International Documentary Festival

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