



55th hof international
film festival

internationale hofer filmtage

26. - 31. Oktober 2021 plus7streamdays

Saturday, 30. October y

PRESS RELEASE

Granit - Hof Documentary Film Prize, Bild-Kunst Award and Hof Critics Award 2021

We are delighted that today, we have been able to award three prizes at the 55th Hof International Film Festival: the **GRANIT-HOF DOCUMENTARY FILM PRIZE**, the **BILD-KUNST AWARD** and the **HOF CRITICS AWARD**.

The **GRANIT - HOF DOCUMENTARY FILM PRIZE**, donated by the Hermann and Bertl Müller Foundation, is awarded to the best documentary film and endowed with a sum of 7,500€. The jury members this year were Marcus Richardt, Cordula Kablitz-Post and Douglas Wolfesperger.

This year the prize goes to

LUCHADORAS by **PATRICK JASIM** and **PAOLA CALVO**

LUCHADROS addresses what is arguably one of the most harrowing and extreme crimes of our time: the mass femicides on the Mexican-American border in Ciudad Juarez. Filmed in haunting, sometimes essayistic and also aesthetic images, **PATRICK JASIM** and **PAOLA CALVO** tell the story of three Mexican lucha libre wrestlers who have experienced violence first-hand or are fighting for a better life and improved image of women. **LUCHADORAS** is a courageous film and a powerful sign of awakening for women in Mexican society.

In addition, a special commendation is given to the film

SEASIDE SPECIAL by **JENS MEURER**

The jury of the **BILD-KUNST AWARD** this year are: costume designer Susanne Roggendorf (VSK), production designers Josefine Lindner (VSK) and Josina von Minckwitz, and production design students Luisa Niederschuh (ifs) and Nele Seifert (Ludwigsburg). Since 2004, the prize has consisted of one award for the best costume design and one for the best production design. Both prizes are endowed with €2,500 each. The shortlist included 15 German feature film productions that celebrated their German premiere at Hof Film Festival.

The **BILD-KUNST AWARD** for the best costume design in 2021 goes to

HANNAH EBENAU and **SARBINE KRÄMER** for **TRÜMMERMÄDCHEN**

and the **BILD-KUNST AWARD** for the best production design in 2021 to

YVONNE LEUZE for her work on **TRÜMMERMÄDCHEN**



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SABRINA KRÄMER and **HANNAH EBENAU** are being recognized for their well-researched and realized costumes of the 1940s: The overall concept of the film allows for detours into other periods, which were very sensitively and artfully inserted into the film's era without imposing themselves. The two costume designers successfully spanned an artistic spectrum of colors, patterns and jewelry, and used these creative means to depict a convincing development of the individual characters. **YVONNE LEUZE's** powerful vision draws the black and white world of a ruined, misogynistic society, which appears fragmentarily in the infinity of an abstract dark space. Sophisticated constructions give rise to mountains of rubble and streetscapes that explore the tightrope walk between reality and scenic reduction. In contrast, there are the elaborate and lovingly decorated sets of the "Proto" theater: a place of painful confrontation and liberating self-empowerment. From lustful to horrific, the visuality of **TRÜMMERMÄDCHEN** sears into the retina.

The HOF CRITICS AWARD 2021 is sponsored by the Swiss Critics Association SVFJ and the Professional Association of German Media Journalists and is being awarded for the first time at Hof Film Festival. The jury consists of journalists Ingrid Beerbaum (Berlin), Rolf Breiner (Switzerland) and Katharina Dockhorn (Berlin).

This year the prize is being divided and goes to two films:

for best direction to **THE SAINT OF THE IMPOSSIBLE** by **MARC WILKINS** and

to **DAS SCHWARZE QUADRAT** for its production by **FRISBEEFILMS GmbH & Co.KG**

Constant fear of discovery and deportation characterizes the lives of Peruvian Raffaella and her sons in **THE SAINT OF THE IMPOSSIBLE**. They fled to New York hoping for a better life. Recounting the fate of this small family in the land of endless opportunities, Swiss director Marc Wilkins impressively illustrates the fate of millions of refugees and illegal migrants with immense authenticity and emotional understanding. He stays close to the reality of their everyday life in the shadow of the dazzling metropolis and also shows the reasons for fleeing their home country in unvarnished images.

In the brilliant comedy **DAS SCHWARZE QUADRAT**, an ambitious script by debutant director and self-taught filmmaker Peter Meister entered into a congenial liaison with the courage of a production company. **Manuel** and **Alexander Bickenbach** from Frisbeefilms GmbH & Co.KG underpinned the story about a nightmare cruise for two small-time crooks with the appropriate funding, so laying the foundation for a convincing and cinematically coherent realization.

Information on Hof Film Festival is available at www.hofer-filmtage.com.

Best regards

Ana Radica and the festival team