**PRESS RELEASE**

**October 30, 2018**

**Winners of the 22nd Ji.hlava have been announced**

**The 22nd Ji.hlava knows its winners. *Enclosed World* by Karel Žalud was chosen as the Best Czech Documentary Film, and the existential *Vacancy* got the Best World Documentary Award. In Between the Seas section, the Romanian *Timebox* became the winner, and the Argentinean *Owner´s Portrait*, a documentary essay, was awarded as the Best Debut Documentary Film. Last but not least, the French director Jean-Luc Godard, who is also the author of this year´s festival jingle, was awarded the Achievement in World Cinema Award.**

Opus Bonum section, which presents contemporary world documentary films, showed seventeen pieces this year. **The Belgian *Vacancy* by Alexandra Kandy Longuet was chosen as the best one by the jury member Krzysztof Zanussi.** “The film presents a collective portrait of a group of misfits in the middle of nowhere on the American dessert. Using very disciplined film language, rigorously photographed ‘Vacancy’ reveals an existential tragedy of people living in loneliness and fighting despair,” says Zanussi. The Special Mention was then given to Jakub Červenka for his *Talks with TGM*, a full length feature film about conversations between former Czechoslovak president Masaryk and Karel Čapek. “As a feature film this work is so different from all documentary and experimental submissions in this section that it cannot compete as pair. I admire classical look consistent script and most of all marvellous performance of both actors,“ stated Zanussi.

***Timebox* by the Romanian director Nora Agapi became the Best Central and Eastern European Documentary Film.** The jury of Between the Seas section, lead by the American philosopher and film theoretician Thomas Wartenberg, was choosing from fifteen films. “We chose Timebox because of its profound exploration of the power and burden of memory, the director’s innovative approach to authorship and her command of a complex, emotionally volatile narrative“, says the jury and adds: „The film is deeply personal yet its engagement with issues ranging from the psychological to the political raises questions that resonate far beyond its own story.“ **The Special Mention Award was given to the Slovak film called *The Last Self-Portrait* by Marek Kuboš** for its funny and ingenious examination of ethnic dilemmas in the documentary production and resulting loss of freedom in wider society. The Estonian *A Well-Kept Secret* by Mikhel Oksmannbecame the winner of Between the Seas Student Film Competition when beat other eight movies. “We chose *Well-Kept Secret* for its highly original, precise and dignified portrayal of a group of elderly people in Estonia who share scurrilous stories and poetry,“ says the jury. The Special Mention Award was given as well – to the Ukrainian *Heavy Metal* by Eugene Golovanevsky. „It is by turns absurdist, hilarious, abject and shocking in its portrait of a group of men whose trade is to strip metal from decaying buildings,“ is the verdict of the jury.

**The Argentinean film called *Owner´s Portrait* by Joaquín Maito became the Best Debut of this year.** “Creating an inventive essay framed around a feline and canine-centric world, the filmmaker succeeds in turning images into figures of a new political discourse and cinematic grammar,“ are the words of the jury of First Lights lead by the Polish curator Ewa Szablowska. **The Special Mention was given to *Boy of War* by the French-Ukrainian artistic duo Cyprien Clément-Delmas and Igor Kosenko.** The film was supported by Ji.hlava Film Fund. „A layered portrait of masculinity, skilfully constructed with humour and empathy, exploring the crossroads of youth and history, ideals and illusion,“ praises the jury, which was choosing from eleven first works this year. **The film received also the award accorded by the student jury.**

There were one hundred and sixty-one films in all competition sections at the 22nd Ji.hlava festival. **The Czech Joy section** **included thirteen films and *Enclosed World* by the director Karel Žalud became the best of them.** “The film urgently calls for reflection on how justice is understood and implemented in contemporary society. Who do we punish and why? Can repression be a remedy? What is the relationship between the prisoner and the imprisoner? Can art become a positive tool of “correction” in the judicial system or the human community?“ This is the verdict of the jury, whose members were for example Charlotta Kotíková, president´s Masaryk granddaughter, Marie Dvořáková, the students´ Oscar holder or the documentarist Apolena Rychlíková. **Two films were given the Special Mention Award this year. One of them goes to the film called *Central Bus Station* by Tomáš Elšík.** “Nicely elaborated stories of several protagonists related to the controversial building of the bus station that has changed the urban structure of Tel Aviv. The film combines magical poetry with lower levels of contemporary life in Israel and history with the present,“ the jury says. **The director Tereza Bernátková with her film *Solo for the Deputies and Senators* is the second award-winning author.** „The prize is awarded for the radical film gesture that straightforwardly reveals the absence of political imagination and leaves the viewers in the state of tragicomic abandonment,“ the jury describes. „**The prize of the student jury is awarded to *Passengers* by Jana Boršková,** the film with an inner insight and understanding of the world of the overlooked and despised. It invites our generation to integrate these people and brings a promising look into their more complex lives,“ are words of the student jury.

***Blending and Blinding* by the Australian director Richard Tuohy became the Best World Experimental Documentary Film.** “Aside from guiding our vision towards the unknown other, the meticulous manner and specialists’ skills is building this visually thrilling meditative travelogue. The film is awarded for its unambiguous control and palpable grace,“ says the jury. There were thirty-one films in the Fascinations section this year. **The Special Mention Award was given to the digital miniature called *Soar* by Patrick Bokanowski**. „Maritime motives and everyday scenes create musical postcards in flux. If evolution took some other path, maybe we’d see the world in shapes and forms envisaged in this beautiful film,“ states the jury consisting of the Croatian filmmakers Hrvoje Hribar and Marina Kožul.

**The Fascinations: Exprmntl.cz section showed twenty films. *Apart* by the Czech-Vietnamese director Diana Cam Van Nguyen became the best one**. “Voices off belong to the real persons, while the image is animated. Whimsical drawings meet sorrowful testimonies. The dream becomes the extension of a document, and the document grows into an intimate narrative of love and loss, life and death, and coming of age,“ says the jury. **It gave also the Special Mention prize – to *Puddles, I Don´t Know.***„Sense and sensibility, love, humour, intelligence! Special mention goes to film that starts with something like grey shapes of enformel paintings. Suddenly, it evolves to organic joy of rain, water and playful humans. Good old Czech cinema is back, yet in the form of an arty innovation in nevím, kaluže by Anna Petruželová,“ the jurors add.

**The film *Vote for Kibera* by Martin Páv was appreciated the most by this year´s audience.** It is a film about a huge slum in African Nairobi.

As usually, **the Silver Eye Award was announced, too. The prize went to the film called *When the War Comes* by Jan Gebert.** “The emerging director – producer duo, Jan Gebert and Radovan Síbrt, found a peculiar way of portraying a modern-day antagonist who genuinely represents dangerous tendencies in current society, while choosing the necessary rigorous way to approach him. With clear cinematic language, this film depicts omnipresent inclination of some people to manipulate the others”, the jury says.

The award for the best festival poster goes to Taiwan International Documentary Festival this year. The poster of Academia Film Olomouc, an international festival of popular-scientific films, was appreciated the most by the audience.

**Tadatoshi Akiba**, the long-time mayor of Hiroshima, who has dedicated a significant part of his life to fight for nuclear disarmament and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize ten times in a row, belonged among guests of this year´s festival. “Even though you cannot see results of what you do immediately, it is still important to do meaningful things since the results will sooner or later come,” said Akiba at Ji.hlava. Marek Hovorka, the festival director, states: “I am glad that this festival year showed that it is indeed meaningful to realize dreams. I am happy that this year´s Ji.hlava has broken all its audience records. However, the energy, shared by both audience and authors, is even more important.”

**The 22nd Ji.hlava had a record attendance of more than 40.000 viewers. There were 5.270 accredited guests, including 1.185 film professionals, 345 journalists and 407 children. The program consisted of 327 films, 100 world premiers and 161 competition films divided into eleven sections.**

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