



61st THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL|| 5- 15/11/2020

61st TIFF: The Thessaloniki Agora Awards

The 61st TIFF's Agora was successfully completed with the participation of hundreds of film professionals and with the announcement of the Thessaloniki Agora Awards on Friday, November 13, 2020.

In these very peculiar times we live in, Thessaloniki International Film Festival insisting on its motto "Cinema No Matter What", decided early on to hold its industry event, Agora, headed by Yianna Sarri, online.

Watch the awards video here:

<https://youtu.be/EquRYwmotNI>

Crossroads Co-production Forum

The jury of the 16th Crossroads Co-production Forum, consisted of Anamaria Antoci, producer – Tangaj Production (Romania), Milan Stojanović, producer – Sense Production (Serbia) and Katarina Tomkova, producer, consultant, training provider – kaleidoscope, Punchkart Films, MIDPOINT Institute (Slovakia & Czech Republic).

I. The Jury grants the **Two Thirty-Five co-production award** (full post-production image and sound) "For the exceptional directorial vision of a fragile universe composed of sensations of nature, experienced by a transgender girl while her family matures towards acceptance, and a subject we feel is immensely important to offer this award to:"

20.000 SPECIES OF BEES, writer-director: Estibaliz Urresola, Producer: Lara Izagirre – Gariza Films, Spain.

II. The jury also grants the French **CNC (CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE) Development award of 8,000 euros** "For a compelling personal story, supported by a convincing artistic vision and presented by a team of filmmakers with outstanding synergy the award goes to the film project":

BIRTHDAY, writer-director: Lara Zeidan, producer: Séverine Tibi, Anaïs Calmels – Sevana Films, Lebanon, France.





III. The jury grants the new award by **Finos Film** aimed to support the local industry with a grant of 3,000 euros “For a provoking story that embarks the audience on a journey through different film genres, told by a unique cinematic voice, with a very personal and peculiar style to the film project.”

THEY COME OUT OF MARGO, writer-director: Alexandros Voulgaris – The Boy, producer: Eleni Bertes, LOGLINE, Greece.

IV. The jury also decided to grant the **PRODUCERS’ NETWORK** accreditation for the **Cannes Film Festival 2021** to the producer **Güneş Şekeroğlu** – Hay Film, Turkey from the project **KRIEGSAUSGABE** writer-director: Tarik Aktaş.

“For an exciting and challenging project, with an even more challenging title!”

V. The **ARTE Kino International Prize**, presented by Julie Savary (ARTE France cinéma), is offering **6,000 euros**. “Our prize this year goes to a first feature. The jury was deeply moved by the emotions conveyed in this story but also very impressed by the director’s previous work”.

The award goes to the film project:

TAKOTSUBO, writer-director: Miki Polonski, producer: Shira Hochman – MINA Films, co-producer: Janja Kralj – KinoElektron, Israel, France.

VI. The **SCRIPT 2 FILM WORKSHOP** of the **Mediterranean Film Institute (MFI)** awards a full scholarship to the film project **20.000 SPECIES OF BEES**, writer-director: Estibaliz Urresola, Producer: Lara Izagirre – Gariza Films, Spain.

VII. **Initiative Film** will provide six months of follow-up consultative services for its development strategy to the project: **RETIRO**, writer-director: Elina Fessa, producer: Vasilis Chrysanthopoulos – PLAYS2PLACE, Greece.

VIII. The award **THESSALONIKI EAVE Marketing Workshop Scholarship** selects **Dimitri Tsakaleas** – Argonauts Productions from the project **THE SUMMER WITH CARMEN** writer-director: Zacharias Mavroeidis, Greece to participate in the 2021 Workshop.

IX. The **ASTERISK* Award** for Packaging and Project Marketing Strategy goes to: **ONCE UPON A TIME IN TRIPOLI** writer-director: Abdullah Al-Ghaly, Producer: Miftah Saeid – Cyrene Productions, Hassala Films, Libya, Egypt.

X. **SOFIA MEETINGS Project Selection** is:

TAKOTSUBO, writer-director: Miki Polonski, producer: Shira Hochman – MINA Films, co-producer: Janja Kralj – KinoElektron, Israel, France.





Agora Works in Progress

The Agora Works in Progress jury consisted of Karina Korenblum, Cercamon, Executive of Acquisitions and Sales (UAE), Michael Stütz, Berlin Film Festival, Head of Panorama (Germany), Dorien van de Pas, Netherlands Filmfund, Head of New Screen NL & Eurimages Representative (The Netherlands) and Yorgos Zois, Filmmaker (Greece).

The Jury was impressed by the quality and diversity of the 11 projects submitted and the professional pitches; the decision-making was not an easy task.

XI. The jury grants the **GRAAL post-production** award with in kind services in image post-production “A mesmerizing sensorial cinematographic experience, which invites us to connect with nature and the need of discovering new worlds the award goes to:”

ROCK BOTTOM RISER, director-producer: Fern Silva, Portugal, USA, Greece.

XII. The **EURIMAGES Lab Project Award** offers an up to €50,000 prize to an unconventional film of the Agora Works in Progress. “By unanimous decision of the Jury the Eurimages Lab Project Award goes to a daring adaptation of Sophocles’ myth that blends gracefully silence with a striking black and white photography, offering us a contemporary view of our society, the Eurimages Lab Project Award goes to:

TRACKING SATYRS directed by: Michał & Maciej Mądracki, Gilles Lapore, produced by: Beata Rzeźniczek (Madants), co-produced by: Prince Film, Poland, Switzerland.

XIII. The **MuSou AWARD** provides composition and production for an original film score, music supervision and assistance in licensing of commercial music for use in the film, as well as audio post-production services.

The award goes to “To a vibrant, intimate project, that deals with love in an unorthodox way blending dream and reality.”

MUSA, directed by: Nikos Nikolopoulos, produced by: Nikos Nikolopoulos & Artemis Zervou, Greece

Agora Lab

The Agora Lab program comes to complement the Agora Works in Progress and to offer five (5) selected Greek films the opportunity to edit their material under the guidance of experienced professionals as tutors. In an effort to support the local industry a new award granted by the **ERT** (Hellenic Broadcast Corporation) of 2,000 euros was decided by the Agora Lab tutors and was bestowed to one of the five Greek films in post-production stage, presented during at the Agora Lab and Agora Works in Progress.





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The Agora Lab tutors are:

Antigoni Papantoni, acquisitions - Heretic Outreach (Greece), Yiannis Sakaridis, artistic director of Drama Short Film Festival, director, editor (Greece) and Mira Staleva, producer, Head of Sofia Meetings of the Sofia Film Festival (Bulgaria) and they decided to grant the award "For approaching the unsettling issue of the far-right rising among youth set in a working-class neighborhood of Athens in the COVID context in a film that we believe it will succeed resonating with international audiences" the ERT Award goes to:

18 directed by: Vassilis Douvlis, produced by: Panagiotis Kakavias (Kfilms), Katerina Belyianni (Kabel), Greece.

For more information please contact agora@filmfestival.gr



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