20th Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival

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20th Jihlava IDFF generated enormous interest, attracting an unprecedented number of visitors

Along with its 4 and a half thousand visitors, the Jihlava IDFF celebrated its 20th anniversary, engaged in debates outlining the festival’s future prospects and unveiled its history on Jihlava’s main square. Among the most popular events were the screenings of Czech Journal: The Little Mole and Laozi by Filip Remunda and Love Me, If You Can by Dagmar Smržová as well as the keenly awaited visit of American psychologist Philip Zimbardo.

“The 20th Jihlava IDFF attracted enormous interest of documentary film fans and I am happy to see that our festival has remained an event that interconnects filmmakers with their audiences just like twenty years ago when it was founded,” says Marek Hovorka, Director of Jihlava IDFF.

The unconventional Closing Ceremony that walked through the streets of Jihlava was hosted by the duo of presenters from the Vosto5 ensemble and the Best Czech Documentary Film Award went to FC Roma and Normal Autistic Film. French Spectres Are Haunting Europe won The Best World Documentary Award. The winner of the Between the Seas section, The Dazzling Light of Sunset, was also acknowledged by the First Lights competition jury as the Best Documentary Debut. The Best Experimental Film Award goes to Canadian Engram of Returning and to the Czech film De Potentia Dei by Ondřej Vavrečka. Drahomíra Vihanová accepted the Contribution to World Cinema Award from the hands of the Jihlava IDFF’s Director, Marek Hovorka.

4,456 thousand festivalgoers including 1,068 film professionals visited the 20th anniversary edition of the Jihlava IDFF. The visitors could enjoy a total of 181 film screenings, 41 accompanying events and 43 Industry Programme events open to public.
From over 3,600 submitted titles, 310 films from 62 countries have been shortlisted for this year’s programme, with additional 26 offered as part of the Czech Television Documentaries section. The competition sections showcased 45 world premieres, as well as 11 international and 2 European premieres.

One of the themes of the 20th anniversary edition of the Jihlava IDFF were future documentary prospects: “Will documentary cinema still be around in twenty years? And if so, in what form?” was one of our survey questions. And the answer is: documentary cinema will stay alive and so will the largest celebration of documentary film in Central and Eastern Europe – the 21st annual Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival will take place on Oct 24 – 29, 2017.

AWARD-WINNING FILMS of the 20th JIHJAVA IDFF

Czech Joy
Winner: FC Roma, Rozálie Kohoutová, Tomáš Bojar, Czech Republic, 2016
Winner: Normal Autistic Film, Miroslav Janek, Czech Republic, 2016
Student jury award: Normal Autistic Film, Miroslav Janek, Czech Republic, 2016

Opus Bonum
Winner: Spectres Are Haunting Europe, Maria Kourkouta, Niki Giannari, France, 2016
Special Mention: Smiling on the Phone, Aitziber Olaskoaga, Netherlands, Spain, USA, 2016

Between the Seas
Winner: The Dazzling Light of Sunset, Salomé Jashi, Georgia, Germany, 2016

First Lights
Winner: The Dazzling Light of Sunset, Salomé Jashi, Georgia, Germany, 2016
Special Mention: Sea Tomorrow, Katya Suvorova, Kazakhstan, Germany, 2015
Student jury award: *The Things*, Nino Gogua, Georgia, 2016

**Fascinations**
Winner: *Engram of Returning*, Daichi Saito, Canada, 2015

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Winner: *De Potentia Dei*, Ondřej Vavrečka, Czech Republic, 2016

**Short Joy**

**Silver Eye Awards**
Feature-length category: *Communion* (Anna Zamecka, Poland, 2016)
Mid-length category: *5 October*, Martin Kollár, Slovakia, 2016
Short-length category: *Pulse*, Robin Petré, Hungary, Belgium, Portugal, 2016

**Audience Award**
*Love Me, If You Can*, Dagmar Smržová, Czech Republic, 2016
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20th Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival

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