**PRESS RELEASE**

**October 29, 2018**

**Ji.hlava Today: Announcing the Winners and Kusturica**

**The twenty-second iteration of the festival has two days left to go. Tonight, the winners will be announced, and you are invited to visit Brave New Worlds and try out virtual reality tomorrow.**

This year’s A Testimony on Politics section was comprised of six films. The best political documentary film is *The Silence of Others* from the Spanish-American duo Almudena Carracedo and Rober Bahar. ‘You can’t erase memory. The victims of Franco’s regime still in pursuit of justice forty years later, both at home and abroad. It’s not just about a key change in the legislature that tries to erase historical truth. After all, we need to empathise with people who, near the end of their lives, want to find, reclaim and properly bury the remains of their loved ones murdered by the inhumane regime,’ said the jury made up of the political scientist Anna Durnová, political analyst Petr Lebeda and the president of the Czech Constitutional Court, Pavel Rychetský. ‘Another shocking thing is that this regime took children away from those deemed politically inconvenient. The indelible memory of this is a key element in the search for a Spanish national identity, which also directly impacts other European nations. As Václav Havel once said: “Those who do not know their past are doomed to repeat it,”’ the jury added. The film *Still Recording* from directors Ghiath Ayoub and Saeed Al Batal received the special award. ‘The film is unique in the way it depicts the sometimes almost naïve attempts to try and give the reality of war a semblance of everyday life: a jogger jogging between the ruins, children painting a fence in rainbow hues, a recording studio in a besieged city. This harsh yet poetic film was paid for with the lives of those who created it,’ the jury noted.

And what about yesterday’s Czech Joy section? Petr Salaba presented the film *Attention Economy: 39 Minutes after the Presidential Election*, which uses different perspectives to show an incident that occurred after Miloš Zeman was re-elected as president. ‘You don’t see articles in the news about things that take long to develop. It’s just whatever is happening right now. Those long-term things are, however, usually the important ones, but they don’t grab our attention as easily. People care about fires and hurricanes,’ said Salaba in a discussion following the screening. Another film from yesterday worth pointing out is Jiří Holba’s *Feral*, which is a profile of the underground songwriter and Charter 77 signatory Charlie Soukup. ‘Charlie has boundless energy. As I was waking up, he was already working on something or clearing out his marijuana gardens. Later, he’d spend hours talking and smoking his concoctions out of his bong. Over time, he told me his entire life story and I was repeatedly stunned by the sheer range of his knowledge,’ says the director about shooting the film in the Australian outback where Soukup has been living for the last few years.

The topic of Sunday’s Inspiration Forum was the crisis of the political left. ‘Voters are like mushrooms in a forest. All they want from a political party is an ideology and then they’re just ripe for the picking,’ said the politician Vladimír Špidla while debating the British political pundit Neal Lawson, art historian Milena Bartlová and sociologist Daniel Prokop.

The 22nd Ji.hlava IDFF will be capped off tonight with the announcement of winners in seven competition categories: Opus Bonum, First Lights, Between the Seas, Between the Seas Student Film Competition, Czech Joy, Fascinations and Fascinations: Exprmntl.cz. The ceremony will be followed by a screening of *El Pepe, A Supreme Life* from the Serbian director Emir Kusturica.

The festival is not over yet, however. Even on Tuesday, you can still visit the Brave New Worlds section, which is the country’s largest exhibition of 360-degree and interactive documents

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