

PRESS RELEASE

**THE 27TH JI.HLAVA IDFF HAS REVEALED ITS AWARD-WINNERS
AND ANNOUNCED PLANS TO EXTEND THE FESTIVAL TO TEN DAYS**

Jihlava, October 29, 2023

Ji.hlava has unveiled its winning films. *Photophobia* by Ivan Ostrochovský and Pavol Pekarčík took home the Best Czech Documentary award, while the most prominent Opus Bonum award for best world documentary went to Elvis Lenić's *Ship* from Croatia. Maia Gattás Vargas, the Argentine director, was honoured an award for the original approach, and Hungarian director Béla Tarr received recognition for his contribution to world cinema. The Ji.hlava IDFF also has plans to expand the live part of the festival from six to ten days starting next year.

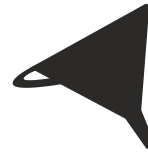
The twenty-seventh Ji.hlava IDFF has handed out its prizes and also announced that it will extend from the current six days to ten in the coming years. *"We want to provide greater comfort for our audience. This will free up accommodation capacity, which will be available to more festival guests and visitors. The extension will also result in a greater number of screenings, allowing us to have up to four screenings of a single film,"* said festival director Marek Hovorka.

Ji.hlava Online starts tomorrow. It will run until November 12th and will offer more than one hundred seventy films from this year's live festival programme. Audiences will have the opportunity to watch not only most of the award-winning films but also the most interesting selections that Ji.hlava presented this year. All films from the programme will be available for viewing until midnight on November 12th, but only within the territory of the Czech Republic.

Opus Bonum: Ship

This year, the **Opus Bonum** representing the showcase of world documentary production, featured 17 films. A five-member jury selected the film *Ship* by Croatian director Elvis Lenić and awarded it the main prize. In their statement, they explain their decision: *"For its impressive, thoroughly developed, and visually captivating story of a Croatian shipyard, whose rise and fall mirror the political fate of former Yugoslavia."* The jury consisted of French editor **Dominique Auvray**, American writer and educator **Michael Renov**, Czech director **Adéla Komrzý**, British curator and filmmaker **Christopher Small**, and director Una Gunjak from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The creators of the winning film will receive a financial prize of ten thousand dollars.

In the Opus Bonum section, the jury also awarded the prize for the best film from the Central and Eastern Europe. It was won by the Polish film *Distances* directed by Matej Bobrik. The jury stated: *"For an intimate, unrelenting portrayal of a family trying to survive the harrowing experience of migration – from Nepal to Poland."* The creators of the winning film from Central and Eastern Europe will receive a financial prize of five thousand dollars.



This year's award for the **Best World Debut** went to the film ***You Will Never See It All*** by Czech director Štěpán Pech. The jury noted: *"For creating a comprehensive portrait of an artist that successfully captures the intensity and diversity of his work, the shock of the artist's premature death, and its impact on the survivors."*

The award for the **Best Film from the Visegrad region** went to the Slovak film ***Third End of the Stick*** directed by Jaro Vojtek. *"For offering a richly nuanced mosaic of life within some Slovak Roma settlements, focusing on the daily struggles for financial, physical and psychological wellbeing,"* the jury explained.

The **Award for an original approach** went to audiovisual artist and research worker from Buenos Aires, Maia Gattás Vargas, for the film ***East Wind***. *"For the creation of a filmmaker's cinematic search for a father she never knew, an exploration that couples poetry with politics via the reclamation of her Palestinian cultural identity,"* says the jury statement.

The **student jury award in the Opus Bonum section** went to director Nikola Klinger for ***La Reine***. *"This film combines captivating visuals, sensitive storytelling, and the interaction between the director and the protagonists. In doing so, it creates a space for sharing personal traumas and opens up timeless themes of freedom, rebellion, and life on the fringes of society,"* noted the student jury.

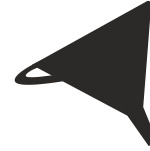
Czech Joy: Photophobia

This year, **Czech Joy** featured 17 competing documentaries. According to the jury, the best among them is ***Photophobia*** by Ivan Ostrochovský and Pavol Pekarčík. *"From the appalling reality of the Russian invasion of Ukraine the authors of the film created a poetic and cinematically impressive vision of the childhood world. We value the courage to film in such challenging conditions. Through scenes of personal tragedies, the form of the film Photophobia establishes the unbreakable will of the heroic people of Ukraine to persevere and to prevail. The universal dimension of the film urgently reminds us of the scale and extent of other war conflicts, from the refugee crisis to the horror in Gaza,"* said the statement of the five-member jury, which included Czech film journalist Kamila Boháčková, Iranian director Kaveh Daneshmand, Slovak director Robert Kirchhoff, writer Klára Vlasáková, and director Lucie Králová. The authors of the winning film will receive a financial reward of two hundred thousand crowns.

The jury also gave a **special mention**. They praised ***My Paradise Is Darker Than Your Hell*** by director Kateřina Dudová. *"A raw and uncompromising exploration of the roots of self-destruction,"* is how the jury described the film.

Hedvika Hansalová received the **Best Editing Award** for her work on ***Satan Among Us*** directed by Martin Ježek. *"For performative editing of parasitic qualities,"* stated the jury. The film also received the Best Sound Award, which was taken home by Martin Klapper. *"For the Faustian vibrations of the collective shadow,"* said the jury.

The award for **Best Cinematography** in the Czech Joy section went to cinematographer Patrik Balonek for the film ***Bedwetter***. *"For cinematography that connects the failed attempts of maturing from a boy into a man with the motion of a falling pinecone,"* stated the jury.



Viera Čákanyová took home the **Award for an original approach** for the film **Notes from Eremocene**. *“The film is a powerful personal testament which critically examines such urgent phenomena as the ongoing climate crisis or the rapid development of technology. The director sends her message into the future – which, though uncertain, is shaped by all of us. Here and now,”* stated the jury.

The **Student Jury Award** went to **The World According to My Dad** by Marta Kovářová. *“The winning film of the Czech Joy section is a playful film with a current theme, in which the author tells with unprecedented charm about the complicated journey of a father and daughter to enlighten the whole world,”* agreed the students.

Fascinations: Silhouette

The award for the most interesting global experimental documentary in the Fascinations section went to Japanese director Yoshiki Nishimura for the film **Silhouette**. *“Using the technical tools of recording and then analysing the world around us, the film gives us the chance to experience something as ordinary as a morning walk with the dog. The light imprints a shadow on the pavement, leaving a mark of a daily meditation. The scanning of reality becomes a poetic gesture that brings an irreplaceable experience of confronting the world around us,”* stated the family jury, which included Ukrainian director Anna Kryvenko and her mother.

Special mention was then awarded to Cuban filmmaker, photographer, and actress Violena Ampudia for the film **Blue**. *“A piece of visual poetry processing the incredibly tough and still often taboo subject of postpartum depression, and in doing so becomes a tool to help the women themselves. A participative therapy session that takes you through the surface of sound and in turn allows the audience to immerse themselves in a 16 min snippet of a women's personal story,”* said the jury.

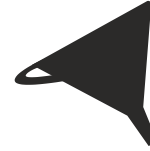
The second special commendation was given to Canadian director Maxime-Claude L'Écuyer for the film **Dinosauria, We**. *“The unsettling flow of fast-paced archival images immediately and irreversibly draws the viewer into a post-apocalyptic vision of a possible future that grows inevitably closer with each passing year. An unstoppable 35mm explosive charge,”* said the jury.

Exprmntl.cz: The Commodity Catalogue

The best Czech experimental film in the **Fascinations: Exprmntl.cz** section is **The Commodity Catalogue** by Zbyněk Baladrán. *“A film whose visuality thematises itself, bringing us an almost physical experience through the cataloguing of concepts that constantly and repeatedly question themselves. A VHS uroboros that endlessly absorbs its own self,”* said the jury statement.

Special mention was taken home by the duo of creators Anežka Horová and Klára Trsková for **Mas Eternamente Não**. *“A twofold walk through the places of memory shows in a subtly poetic way how fragile the world around us can be. Unforgettable images of a greenhouse where nature takes back its own and literally defeats the dictatorship that we know is often around us. But not forever,”* appreciated the jury.

The **second special mention** went to Vít Růžička for **One Sol in the Life of Curiosity**. *“24 hours, 39 minutes and 35 seconds. One Sol, during which the author lets us empathically experience the inner and outer journey*



of an aging rover on Mars, whose view of the great unknown tells us much more about ourselves than any scientific research,” says the jury’s verdict.

Testimonies: *Mighty Afrin*

The Testimonies section presented 17 films. The main prize in the competition was awarded to Greek director Angelos Rallis for the film ***Mighty Afrin: In the Time of Floods***. *“A powerful story of resilient young girl challenged with the loss of her home and family due to rising water levels which gives us a deep insight into the fate of hundreds of millions of people facing the consequences of climate change,”* states the jury, which included Icelandic writer Andri Snær Magnason, Czech analogue astronaut Lucie Ráčková, and Canadian journalist Paris Marx, known from a podcast dedicated to critiquing the current tech industry.

Special mention went to ***One of Thousand Hills*** by Belgian director Bernard Bellefroid. *“After the worst genocide after WWII we see difficult a delicate process of peace and forgiveness,”* said the jury.

The second **special mention** was awarded to Norwegian filmmaker Signe Rosenlund-Hauglid for the film ***Not That Kind of Guy***. *“The topic in the essence transcends beyond sexual relationship to general male-female personal interaction. Representing both perspectives of victims and perpetrators,”* justified the jury their decision.

The World Contribution to Cinema Award this year was taken home by Hungarian director Béla Tarr whose last film ***The Turin Horse*** (2011) won the Grand Jury Prize at Berlinale. *“The films of Béla Tarr are known to audiences literally all over the world, they are often featured in overviews of the most significant films made, and for many filmmakers, he is an inspiration and a master. For example, in the 1990s, the writer, theorist, and director Susan Sontag called him the saviour of contemporary cinema. While in his early days he made short documentary films, primarily about workers and people on the margins of Hungarian society, his recent feature films combine a distinctive minimalist handwriting, minimalism, and an apocalyptic touch combined with a sense of absurdity,”* says festival director Marek Hovorka.

This year, the **Audience Award** went to the film ***Is There Any Place for Me, Please?*** directed by Jarmila Štuková.

Best Short Documentry Film Award in the Short Joy section went to ***Kata’s Motherhood*** by Indian filmmaker Santwana Bayaskar. The film addresses the question of whether someone can become a mother without giving birth to a child.

The list of all winners of the 27th Ji.hlava IDFF can be found [here](#).

The live part of the 27th MFDF Ji.hlava will end on Sunday, October 29th. From 6:00 PM onwards, the festival will continue as Ji.hlava Online, offering more than 170 films for all accredited participants to view on the territory of the Czech Republic.

More information at www.ji-hlava.com and on the festival’s [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) profiles. Email contact: pressservice@ji-hlava.cz.

Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival



PARTNERS AND SPONSORS 2023

MAIN SUPPORTERS

Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
Czech Film Fund
Creative Europe MEDIA
Statutory City of Jihlava
Vysočina Region

MAIN PARTNER

Gemo

GENERAL MEDIA PARTNER

Czech Television

MAIN MEDIA PARTNER

Czech Radio

EXCLUSIVE MEDIA PARTNERS

Aktuálně.cz
Respekt

SUPPORTED BY

EEA and Norway Grants
International Visegrad Fund
U.S. Embassy in the Czech Republic
French Institute
ARRI
Current Time TV
National Recovery Plan financed by EU
NextGenerationEU / Ministry of Culture
Czech Centres
Italian Cultural Institute
Austrian Cultural Forum
Státní fond kultury
German Films
Delegation of Flanders in the Czech Republic
Instituto Camões
Unifrance
Jan Barta

PARTNERS OF THE INDUSTRY SECTION

Creative Europe MEDIA
Czech Film Fund
International Visegrad Fund
Ministry of Culture Czech Republic
Audiovisual Producers' Association
Statutory City of Jihlava
Creative Europe Desk CZ – Media
Czech Film Center

PARTNERS OF JI.HLAVA NEW VISIONS

AWARDS

AmDocs
Current Time TV
FilmAid
Cannes Docs - Marché du Film
Documentary Association of Europe
European Film Market
Soundsquare
UPP
#Docs Connect Taskovski Film Training

PARTNER PROJECT

Doc Alliance Films

THE INSPIRATION FORUM PARTNERS

Co-funded by European Union
EEA and Norway Grants

IOCB Tech Foundation
Prague office of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung e.V. – Representation
in the Czech Republic
Masaryk Democratic Academy
Slovak-Czech Women's Fund
Czech Centres
Creative Europe Desk Czech Republic
The Journalism Incubator

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNER

Co-funded by the EU's Single Market
Programme

REGIONAL PARTNERS

Citypark
Chesterton
Sepos
The College of Polytechnics Jihlava
WFG Capital

OFFICIAL SHIPPING PARTNER

FedEx Express

PHOTO PARTNER

Nikon

PARTNER OF VR ZONE

Go360
Broumov Development Agency

OFFICIAL FESTIVAL BEER

MadCat Brewery

OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

Auto Dobrovolný
AZ Translations
BIOFILMS
Böhm
BOKS
Decathlon
Dřevovýroba Podzimek
E.ON
Fine Coffee
Flexipal
Husták
ICOM
Johannes Cyder
KINOSERVIS
KOMA Modular
La Formaggeria Gran Moravia
Leros
Little Urban Distillery
M-SOFT
Merch4u
Mitech
Next Bike
On Lemon
OnSinch
TENTino
Tierra Verde
Porta Bohemica Winery
We Are Ferdinand
Zahrady Laurus
Zmrzlina Snová

PARTNERS OF JI.HLAVA FOR KIDS

National Recovery Plan financed by EU
NextGenerationEU / Ministry of Culture

Vysočina Regional Gallery
F POINT
RASL čalouněný nábytek
ČT: D
Brána Jihlavy
DAFilms Junior
Dětský lesní klub Hájenka
DIOD - Divadlo otevřených dveří
Nikon škola
Meruzalka-Montessori MŠ a ZŠ v Jihlavě
Rodinný park Robinson
Knihkupectví Dlouhá punčocha
UNI BON Production
Tirealis
LAGUS
Bistro na tři tečky
HUSTÁK CZ

CO-OPERATIONS

Aerofilms
Bombus Natural Energy
DIOD
DKO – Dům kultury a odborů Jihlava
Dopravní podnik města Jihlavy a.s.
Horácké divadlo Jihlava
Masaryk University
Cinema Máj in Třešť
Newton Media
Vysočina Regional Gallery
Prádelna a čistírna Jihlava

MEDIA PARTNERS

A2
A2larm
Dějiny a současnost
Film a doba
Radio 1

REGIONAL MEDIA PARTNERS

City.cz
Hitrádio Vysočina
Jihlavská Drbna
Jihlavské listy
Náš Region

MEDIA CO-OPERATIONS

25fps
ArtMap
ČSFD
Festival Guide
Full Moon
HIS Voice
Heroine
Host
Kinobox
Kult.cz
Nový prostor
Revolver Revue
Studio VOKO
7.G

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PARTNERS

Variety
Cineuropa
Modern Times Review
Business Doc Europe
Kapitál
Kinema.sk
Kino Ikon