



GROSSE KLAPPE 2019

9. European film prize for political children and youth documentary - sponsored by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpj)

SPOLU SAMI (CZ 2018) by Diana Cam Van Nguyen

Jury Statement

We are awarding a film, whose visual composition defies the existing conventional documental images. The picturesque animation technique portrays the helplessness of the protagonists and emphasises their narratives through the remarkable accentuation of selected details. Some scenes use a subjective point of view, which conveys panic and helplessness on an emotional level – just as if the audience would take part in the narrative itself.

Our award-winning film depicts three stories which are, as the narration progresses, dramaturgically intertwined. Thus, constituting a cinematic equivalent to the experience of “being-alone-together”. The filmmaker concentrates on the protagonists’ experiences and intentionally omits the usage of manipulative music. Therefore, the sound design is able to support the narrative and to give a particular significance to the protagonists’ depiction.

We were impressed by both, the film’s capability of connecting the protagonists’ feeling of internal unrest with their real-life experiences and by the filmmaker’s ability to evoke the audience’s empathy while watching.

The honoured short documentary is of great social relevance with the topic “death” being – sooner or later, present in all of our lives. We hope the film will inspire young adolescents to begin a dialogue about these feelings and the aforementioned helplessness.

Special mention
for
DAZWISCHEN ELSA (DE 2019) by Katharina Pethke and Christoph Rohrscheidt

We want to give a special mention to a film displaying how the multitude of available possibilities to shape one's own life can be a source of pressure for adolescents. The concern to make the right choice can lead to prematurely made decisions and insecurities. We were especially touched by how empathetically the film managed to convey the protagonist's sensation of feeling lost to its audience.