

ECFA Documentary Award



Wellen aus Licht (Dear Darkness)
by Samuel N. Schwarz

Jury Statement

The jury of the ECFA award was impressed by the kids that were portrayed in all the six films we watched. Strong, wise, talented and being themselves. That may seem obvious but is not always the case.

The protagonist in the winning film is a deeply impressive character that brings the spectator into its world. In addition, the film offers not only a great cinematic experience but also a sensitive way of storytelling. Combining beautifully live action images and congenial animations - you feel, smell and hear like and with Frida.

This kid is not only strong and talented, but moreover very witty and clever. The film manages to interweave many fields of interests, which correspond to the lives and experiences of many children: from computer games to nature, from the swimming pool to school. We can get a taste of the life of a blind girl and we see the world through her senses.

The way the filmmaker invites us into Frida's world by letting us listen to this gifted talker never seems forced. And although we are invited to her world only for quite a short time, the film never rushes its audience and offers a very rich perspective by simultaneously giving the viewer the space to reflect on that perspective and on her or his own.

We as a 'grown-up' jury fell for this film - and for Frida - from the opening scene on in which we see her, touching and investigating a marvel statue in a museum, and getting a grip of what it portrays. We are confident that also kids love to investigate the world of Frida alongside with her. An impressive cinematic work made by a young filmmaker which has completely convinced us.

And that is why we wish to present the ECFA award of 2020 to **Samuel N. Schwarz** for **Wellen aus Licht (Dear Darkness)**.