



## Press release

### ECFA Documentary Award for "Wellen aus Licht" ("Dear Darkness")

Duisburg, November 9th 2020

**Awards at doxs!:** The award for the best children's documentary film in the festival program presented by the European Children's Film Association (ECFA) goes to *"Wellen aus Licht" / "Dear Darkness"* (DE 2019) by Samuel N. Schwarz. Sylvia Borges was awarded the work scholarship for children's and youth documentary film of the federal state of NRW for her project *"Der wahre Schulmädchen-Report"*.

Frida, the protagonist in *Dear Darkness*, can only discern outlines and shadows. However, despite her limited vision, she holds a perspective on the world that is characterized by curiosity and diversity, one which allows the twelve-year-old to perceive things that remain hidden to sighted people. "Frida is a deeply impressive figure," the jury said enthusiastically in their statement. "This kid is not only strong and talented, but moreover very witty and clever." In reference to director Samuel N. Schwarz, who studies film at the Film University Babelsberg in Potsdam, the three ECFA jurors emphasized the "sensitive way of storytelling". They particularly praised the filmmaker's decision to combine documentary with animation. This way we "feel, smell and hear like and with Frida".

Since 2016, the ECFA Documentary Award honours high-quality documentary productions for children in terms of content and aesthetics each year and was presented for the fifth time in Duisburg.

The jury, consisting of Lina Paulsen (Hamburg), Anna Pedroli (Amsterdam) and Claudia Schmid (Lucerne), had to choose between six nominated films from the festival program, which are all aimed at the age group of six to twelve-year-olds.

As of 2018, The Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia has been supporting filmmakers with a **work scholarship for the artistic documentary film for children and youth**, with the call for proposals and awarding being organized by the **Filmbüro NW** and **doxs!**. This year's choice fell on the filmmaker Sylvia Borges from Cologne, who received a grant of 9,900 Euros for her project *"Der wahre Schulmädchen-Report"*. The scholarship is aimed at filmmakers who were born in NRW, live or work there.

The jury was composed of Christine von Fragstein (lecturer and curator for documentary film competitions, among others), Leopold Grün (filmmaker, media educator and managing director of *Vision Kino*) and John Chambers (writer/screenwriter).

The doxs! festival was founded in 2002 as the children's and youth section of the Duisburger Filmwoche and presents documentary works which are engaging adolescents creatively, intelligently and at eye-level. Furthermore, this year marked the ten-year anniversary of the GROSSE KLAPPE award, which honours political children- and youth documentaries and is donated by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb).

The detailed jury statement as well as printable image material on the ECFA prizewinning film and the work scholarship are available at <https://www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/>.

The doxs! festival took place from 2nd to 8th November digitally, offering an online platform for schools as part of the 44th Duisburger Filmwoche.

**Press contact doxs!:**

doxs! documentaries for children and youth

Tanja Tlatlik

Duisburger Filmwoche c/o VHS Duisburg

Steinsche Gasse 26

47049 Duisburg

Tel. +49 (0) 203 283-4164

Fax +49 (0) 203 283-4130

[filmwoche@stadt-duisburg.de](mailto:filmwoche@stadt-duisburg.de)

[www.do-xs.de/english/](https://www.do-xs.de/english/)