

Press Release

To be held back until Friday, November 9th 2018, 12.00 pm

The doxs! youth jury presents the GROSSE KLAPPE award to “Obon” (DE 2018) by André Hörmann and Anna “Samo” Bergmann

Duisburg/Bonn, November 9th, 2018

Award ceremony at doxs!: Filmmakers André Hörmann and Anna “Samo” Bergmann win the GROSSE KLAPPE award with their festival entry “Obon” in Duisburg. The Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) presents the prize for the best political film for children and adolescents since 2011.

“Fire everywhere, burning bodies and an insufferable heat – all hell was breaking loose over the city”. In the award-winning film “Obon”, the nuclear attack on Hiroshima is remembered by one of its last survivors. Despite the memory still being painfully vivid, the 93 year-old woman managed to find a spark of light in the midst of the devastating darkness the catastrophe caused: While her father was an authoritarian and overly introvert man, the horrors of the event changed him. Finally, she could experience the fatherly love and attention from him that she was always longing for.

For their project, Andre Hörmann and the animation artist Anna “Samo” Bergmann set off on unusual paths regarding its formal aspects. They artistically combine their protagonist’s detailed elaborations with animated images, thereby creating a hybrid documentary composition.

The youth jury, comprised of students from Bochum, Moers and Duisburg, proved impressed by the film’s ability to present a known historical event intertwined with a touching family story. “The filmmakers forego the use of demonstrative archive material, using animation to revive the past instead – which can occasionally have an unsettling effect on its viewers.” The jury statement further remarks that the nuclear threat is still just as relevant today as it was back then. “The film’s imagery and realistic sound design induce a touching effect. Despite us having seen quite a few films detailing this topic, we found this film’s composition astounding.”

Thomas Krüger, president of the Federal Agency for Civic Education and award donor, further emphasises the honoured film’s potential for political education: “You cannot talk about history without addressing the present. Particularly questions revolving around armed conflict resolution are more present than ever. The youth jury’s decision reminds us that peace has to be earned and

actively maintained. I am delighted for the honoured award to be initiating important debates in our political educational work – aesthetically, as well as contentwise.”

A special mention by the jury goes to “Operation Jane Walk” (AT 2018), by Leonhard Müllner and Robin Klengel. The short film accompanies a guided group through a post-apocalyptic New York City. “The directors bring an innovative idea to the big screen: The cinematic portrayal of a virtual reality is connected to the city’s urban history and the logic of a video game.”

Of this year’s festival programme, nine European productions were nominated for the prize, which is endowed with 5.000€. The GROSSE KLAPPE award is presented in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) to honour documentaries promoting an aesthetic approach to documentary culture and the political consciousness of children and adolescents.

The GROSSE KLAPPE award was presented for the eight time at doxs!, the children and youth section of the Duisburger Filmwoche. Besides the filmforum in Duisburg, cinemas of other cities such as Bochum, Bottrop, Essen, Dinslaken, Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen and Moers were the venues of this year’s festival.

The comprehensive jury statement, as well as printable photographic material of all honoured films, will be available at www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/. Additionally, photos of the award ceremony will be online on the aforementioned website on Friday, the 9th of November 2018, 1 pm.

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