



Press release

Prizes at doxs! –

Awards for „The Gods of Molenbeek – Aatos and the world“ and „Champ“

Duisburg, November 8th 2019

Award ceremony in Duisburg: the Selbst.Los! Kulturstiftung - Annelie and Wilfried Stascheit is presenting the prize for the “Best Foreign Language Documentary” for the very first time at doxs!. The prize, which is endowed with 6.000 Euro, is given to „The Gods of Molenbeek – Aatos and the world“ (FI/BE/DE 2019). The ECFA DOC AWARD goes to Cassandra Offenberg for “Champ” (NL 2019).

The six year-old Aatos and his friends Amine and Flo from Molenbeek, a suburb of Brussels, take centre stage in the international co-production “The Gods of Molenbeek – Aatos and the world” by Reetta Huhtanen. Together they explore their surroundings and dare to ask questions of existential gravity. At the same time, they carefully observe how, after the terror attacks in 2016, the mood is changing in the streets.

The award sponsors Annelie and Wilfried Stascheit were impressed by the detailed observations and social relevance of the honoured film: “It is the little hints that cause children to pause and wonder: police inspections, closed metro entries, pork meat in a dish – seemingly incidental irritations in a child’s everyday life, all souvenirs of the major social challenges of religious fanaticism and xenophobia. The film does not lecture, it rather exhibits and opens our eyes to otherwise easily missed ‘trivialities’. Instead of offering cheap answers, it permits us to participate in the childrens’ rather philosophical process of trying to formulate questions. A film in pace with the time to define the future.”

The prize endowed with 6.000 Euro by the Selbst.Los! Kulturstiftung for the Best Foreign Language Documentary is presented in cooperation with the association “Freunde der Realität e.V.” every two years. The prize honours the director and includes the release of the award-winning film for educational work in Germany. All non-German festival entries that are aimed at audiences aged six to fourteen are eligible for this award.

This year’s ECFA-Documentary Award goes to the Dutch director Cassandra Offenberg for “Champ”. The award, presented by the European Children’s Film Association, recognises the best European documentary for children and was presented for the fourth time in Duisburg.

The film portrays the 14-year-old kickboxer Esma who, against all odds and fears, follows her dream of becoming a champion. In its appraisal, the jury states: “Without showcasing it explicitly the film conveys an insight into the close family ties, that are marked as much by three generations of women as they

are by her migrant background. In just sixteen minutes we learn about Esma's various characteristics, which show her strength and vulnerability." The film production convinced the jury members on an aesthetic level as well: "Through the three chosen formats digital, 16 mm and smartphone, the filmmaker succeeds in creating atmospheric density, thus offering a profound visual experience on screen. This unique approach, which is complemented by the sound design and the choice of music, lets the film stand out."

The jury was composed of Victoria Ebel (Paris), Nicola Jones (Erfurt) und Dimitra Kouzi (Athen). They had to choose between nine nominated films of the festival programme, which were aimed to six- to twelve-year-olds.

The doxs! festival was founded in 2002 as the children and youth section of the Duisburger Filmwoche. It presents documentary films that engage with adolescents creatively, intelligently and at eye-level. Next to the prize for the Best Foreign Language Documentary and the ECFA Documentary Award, the GROSSE KLAPPE Award, endowed by The Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), was given for its ninth year.

Photos of the award ceremony and the **jury statement** are published at do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/

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