

## Press Release

### **A film as though painted – The doxs! youth jury presents the GROSSE KLAPPE Award to „Spolu sami“ / „Apart“ (CZ 2018) by Diana Cam Van Nguyen**

**Duisburg/Bonn November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**The Czech production “Spolu sami” / “Apart” wins this year’s GROSSE KLAPPE Award. The Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) presents the prize for the best political documentary film for children and adolescents since 2011.**

For the ninth time already, **The Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)** is endowing the prize with 5.000 Euro in Duisburg. Thomas Krüger, president of the bpb, is convinced that documentaries can have a greater role to play than merely the communication of cognitive knowledge: “The cinematic language operates instantaneously and emotionally, which makes film a significant subject and means of political and cultural education. Moreover, the GROSSE KLAPPE Award integrates a peer-to-peer approach into this process: Adolescents sensitise other adolescents for a critical debate on film culture.”

The jury trusts in this year’s honoree’s capability to inspire youngsters to begin a dialogue about exceptionally personal and painful emotions. **“Spolu sami” / “Apart”** (CZ 2018, 10 min.) intertwines the stories of three young adults, who all experienced the loss of a loved one. They talk about the extreme experience of witnessing someone else’s death and what it means to be irrevocably separated from them. Through the narratives’ composition the film becomes a communicative space in which the bereaved can be “alone together” with their emotions.

Director **Diana Cam Van Nguyen** opted to use animation as an aesthetic means – a decision which, besides the film’s great social relevance, constituted the deciding factor for the youth jury, comprised of students from Bochum, Moers and Duisburg, to ultimately honour the movie. According to the jury statement, the film’s image composition stands out from the existing conventional documentary styles: “The picturesque animation technique visualises 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 the feeling of panic and helplessness on an emotional level – just as if the audience would take part in the narrative itself. The filmmaker concentrates on the protagonists’ experiences and intentionally omits the usage of manipulative music as a method of conveyance. This way the sound design is able to support the narrative, imparting a particular significance to the protagonists’ depiction.”

A **special mention** by the jury goes to the 3sat-production “**Dazwischen Elsa**” / “**Elsa in-between**” (D 2019) by **Katharina Pethke** and **Christoph Rohrscheidt**, one of the discussed treatments of the doku.klasse 2018. The 30-minute short film portrays a young woman in search of the right course for her future. “We were especially touched by how empathetic the movie managed to convey the protagonist’s sensation of feeling lost to its audience.”

Eight European productions of this year’s festival programme were nominated for the **GROSSE KLAPPE Award**. The prize is presented in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) to honour documentaries appealing to children and youth and which simultaneously notably encourage debates about aesthetics and politics.

The **award ceremony in the fully booked Duisburger filmforum** was moderated by the youth jury themselves. Well prepared and with great enthusiasm, the twelve adolescents guided the audience through the event and, once again, greeted prominent supporters of the doxs!-festival on stage – one of them being Katrin Willmann (Federal Agency for Civic Education / bpb) and Ruth Schiffer (Ministry for Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia).

The **comprehensive jury statement, film stills**, as well as **photos of the award ceremony** and of all honoured films, are available at [www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/](http://www.do-xs.de/presse/filmpreise/).

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