

International Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Maria Bonsanti
Sylvaine Dampierre
Mark Edwards
Eric Hynes
Avi Mograbi

Golden Dove Feature-length Film

10,000 €

granted by Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk

Dominique Cabrera

La Jetée, the Fifth Shot Le Cinquième plan de La Jetée
France 2024

The jury voted unanimously for a film that exemplifies the power of cinema, exploring how images are made, what they mean to us, the things they show and the things they hide. With precision and a light touch, the filmmaker takes us on an intimate journey through her family's connections to *la Jetée* and Chris Marker, revealing new layers of meaning and emotion behind an enigmatic image of a boy and his family.

Golden Dove Short Film

3,000 €

John Smith

Being John Smith
UK 2024

For its willingness to share doubts and vulnerability, for its questions about what makes up our identity, the jury awards the Golden Dove to a short film by an accomplished artist who revisits his ordinary name and history with extraordinary humor and tenderness.

The winning films of the Golden Doves in the International Competition Documentary Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS®, provided that the films otherwise comply with the Academy's rules.

Silver Dove Feature-length Film

6,000 €

granted by 3sat for the best feature-length documentary film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works)

Pierre Michel Jean

Twice into Oblivion L'oubli tue deux fois

France, Haiti, Dominican Republic 2024

The jury enthusiastically recognizes a film set in a border region that remains haunted and unresolved by a genocide perpetrated over 70 years in the past. By pursuing two distinctly compelling modes — testimonials from elderly survivors as well as improvisational performances by the young inheritors of these unhealed wounds — the film shows the persistence of the past and the need to reckon with it in order for us to find a way forward.

Silver Dove Short Film

1,500 €

granted by the Independent Saxon State Media Agency (SLM) for the best short documentary film by an up-and-coming director (with up to three directorial works)

Samar Al Summary

What Goes Up

Saudi Arabia, USA 2024

The jury awards the Silver Dove to this formally inventive film that proposes a very personal representation of displacement. Beginning with her own impossible return, the filmmaker invents a language to unearth the stories of others who left their own fragile traces in the landscape.

International Competition Animated Film

Jury

Merlin Flügel

Isabel Herguera

Nosipho van den Bragt

Golden Dove Feature-length Film

3,000 €

László Csáki

Pelikan Blue Kék Pelikan

Hungary 2024

The film embodies imagining beyond physical, social, and political constraints and boundaries. It is about chasing your dreams, exploration, friendship and ingenuity. While we do not condone forging your way towards your dreams, we absolutely appreciated the manner in which the story was told, the visual language and, above all, the effortless personal and historical honesty it embraced.

Golden Dove Short Film

1,500 €

granted by German Institute for Animated Film e. V.

Anu-Laura Tuttelberg

On Weary Wings Go By Linnud läinud

Estonia, Lithuania 2024

The film invites us into a realm where fragile beings wander in a harsh winter landscape. Between timeless images full of life, a strangely familiar and warm atmosphere slowly unfolds. The boundary between the characters and the real environment gradually dissolves into an ambivalent world full of wonder and visual poetry, in which nature itself seems to be the protagonist.

The winning film of the Golden Dove Short Film in the International Competition Animated Film will qualify for consideration for the annual ACADEMY AWARDS®, provided that the film otherwise complies with the Academy's rules.

Special Mention

Heinrich Sabl

Memory Hotel

Germany, France 2024

For reminding us of the vows we take when we decide to make a film, especially an animated one — for it requires not only talent, knowledge, loads of innocence, and plenty of money, but more importantly, demands honesty, passion, persistence, rigor, and a great deal of life — the special mention goes to Heinrich Sabl for his film “Memory Hotel”.

German Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Tilman König
Katrin Mundt
Susanne Sachsse

Golden Dove Feature-length Film

10,000 €

donated by Doris Apell-Kölmel, Michael Kölmel

Anja Dreschke, Michaela Schäuble

Tarantism Revisited

Germany, Switzerland 2024

The many lives of a myth: a tale from antiquity, translated into religious ecstatic practice and continued as a ritual of female self-empowerment. It repeats itself, always the same and always different, in the bodies that rebel against the poison of a patriarchal order by dancing or face the toxic legacy of exploitative land use. Between archival research and re-enactment, sound and text compositions, gender and genre, this film develops an idiosyncratic language, resistant in the best sense of the word.

Golden Dove Short Film

1,500 €

Leonard Volkmer

The King of Spain Der König von Spanien

Germany 2024

This film moves like a swarm of texts and images that condense into patterns and rhythms, dissolve again and come together in new constellations. We follow the protagonist's voice, dispersing and losing ourselves with him in the often overwhelming abundance of personal experiences, looking for connection, dislimitation and retreat. We distinguish a film that confides personal matters in us and makes them cinematically tangible – not as illustration, but as a daring venture.

Audience Competition

Jury

Linda Dombrowski
Maria Gallo
Sophie Görlipp
Maria Weiße
Anna Wulffert

Golden Dove

3,000 €

granted pro rata by Leipziger Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Filmkunst e. V.

Virpi Suutari

Once upon a Time in a Forest Havumetsän lapset
Finland 2024

The film shows the courageous and peaceful protest of young Finnish activists who give a voice to the forests they love. Despite the urgency of climate change, the film takes the time to immerse itself in the magic of nature. The intimate portrait of the protagonists has touched and inspired us deeply.

Partnership Awards

DEFA Sponsoring Prize

4,000 €

granted by the DEFA Foundation for an outstanding feature-length documentary film by a German director in competition

Jury

Tilman König
Katrin Mundt
Susanne Sachsse

Jennifer Mallmann

Moria Six
Germany 2024

This is a brilliant documentary film that finds haunting images for the highly militarised and highly technicised human administration apparatus at Europe's external borders. A film that takes your breath away and makes you angry.

MDR Film Prize

3,000 €

for an outstanding Eastern European documentary film

Jury

Thomas Beyer

Marianna Kaat

Sylva Kleemann

Claritta Kratochwil

Annett Meltschack

Anja Zhukova

Marie-Magdalena Kochová

The Other One Ta druhá

Czech Republic, Slovakia 2024

How does a family really work? Who takes on what roles? At first glance, this might seem like a mundane subject, but this film takes an unexpected perspective by focusing on the siblings. It is an exceptional observation which shows how a family copes with the challenges when a new member suddenly needs more attention and care. While most films in such situations centre on the parents or the child with special needs, this film turns the camera on the siblings – the ones that are often overlooked but quietly make an invaluable contribution, which the film captures superbly.

Prize of the Interreligious Jury

2,000 €

for a feature-length film in the International Competition Documentary Film, donated by the VCH-Hotel Michaelis in Leipzig as well as the Interreligious Round Table and the Oratorium Leipzig

The Interreligious Jury is appointed by INTERFILM and SIGNIS.

Jury

Blandine Brunel

Andreas Köhler-Andereggen

Kadija Leclere

Gabriella Meros

Pierre Michel Jean

Twice into Oblivion L'oubli tue deux fois

France, Haiti, Dominican Republic 2024

Not many people know about the so-called “Parsley Massacre” between Haiti and the Dominican Republic in 1937. They are very few, very old people. Survivors in Haiti talked about it and their voices were finally heard. These old people are jewels for this film and provided the impetus for young actors, dancers and artists from both countries to address the tragedy. The director chose this artistic project for the process of coming to terms with the past. The film impressively demonstrates what a challenge it is to communicate about it today, leaving no one indifferent. Documentary film provides a tool for constructive and emotional communication that opens the way to forgiveness. In an age where hatred and aggression speak loudly, this film shows that there is another way.

ver.di Prize for Solidarity, Humanity and Fairness

2,000 €

for a feature-length film in the German Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Julia Cruschwitz

Gundula Lasch

Rüdiger Steinmetz

Daniel Abma

The Family Approach Im Prinzip Familie

Germany 2024

We see every emotion in the faces of those who do far more than just their job. With an amazingly light hand, this film shows their daily routine in which they tirelessly try to create a sense of normalcy for those in their care, give them support and encouragement, and open up perspectives. A tremendous insight.

Young Eyes Film Award

2,000 €

granted by the Rahn Dittrich Group's European Foundation for Education and Culture, awarded by the Youth Jury in cooperation with LFD – Fachstelle für Medien und Bildung

Clara Stella Hüneke

Sisterqueens

Germany 2024

This is a film that combines important topics like racism, feminism and the fight against discrimination with the lives of specific individuals very well. It is thus directed at young people in general and shows their opportunities in today's society. The protagonists are members of an organisation that ensures that the voices of young women are heard in music, and that they are able to realise their own projects. They embody personal strength, confidence and the determination to stand up for the values important in their lives. They show solidarity, motivating other young people and serving as role models. While they are not perfect, they are portrayed as very natural and relatable. The depiction of the daily lives of the three main protagonists and their performances is authentic and convincing. We got to know the protagonists very well in the course of this captivating film. We were and are excited to see how their lives will continue.

FIPRESCI Prize – Prize of the International Film Critics

for a feature-length film in the International Competition Documentary Film

Jury

Esther Buss
Nino Kovačić
Shy K. Segev

Francesca Scalisi

Valentina and the MUOSters Valentina e i MUOStri
Switzerland, Italy 2024

A film that sensitively unfolds as a portrait of a young woman trying to 'make a life of her own', whose character is empathetically presented, making her relatable and compelling. This seemingly small and private family story gradually expands to questions of environment and politics shaping the life of a small town. The film offers a precise visual language that occasionally delights in stylization alongside sophisticated sound design, capturing a stark contrast between nature and technology. It avoids overt commentary, allowing the story to unfold organically and letting the audience feel deeply with the protagonist Valentina.

mephisto 97.6 Award

for the best short animated film

Jury

Colin Schröder
Victoria Schütze
Moritz Willner

Méloidy Boulissière, Bogdan Stamatini

Simply Divine Pur și simplu divin
France, Romania 2024

This is a love story that breathed new life into 5,000 lost photographs. A former family myth turned into a beautiful tale, connecting generations. The film left us with a wonderfully sweet bitterness and a new outlook on love and the trajectory of human life.

film.land.sachsen Prize for Film Culture in Rural Areas

in cooperation with Filmverband Sachsen e. V.

Jury

Thomas Erler

Juliane Renner

Barbara Wallbraun

Daniel Abma

The Family Approach Im Prinzip Familie

Germany 2024

The film succeeds in giving us the documentary gift of taking the audience on an emotional journey at eye level and allowing us to relate to the protagonists of all ages. It highlights an issue which, though widespread, is too often hidden in the dark. Quietly but compellingly, the film manages not to expose anyone, neither the people nor the system in which they have to operate. Despite realities that are often hard to bear, glimmers of hope are created. The film in all its facets concerns many people, whether in the city or in the countryside. As the film is talked about in the planned discussions, the political level is bound to come into play in addition to the emotional aspects.

Gedanken-Aufschluss

awarded by a jury of prisoners of the Juvenile Detention Centre Regis-Breitingen

Daniel Abma

The Family Approach Im Prinzip Familie

Germany 2024

We did not just watch this documentary, we experienced it. Watching the film gave us very private insights into the lives of children who did not have an easy start in life. There were heartbreaking scenes that moved us and made us all the more impressed by the commitment of the carers. We have great respect for this commitment and extend our warmest thanks to the film director for allowing us to share this with his film. This film gave us back some optimism in hard times like these. What these carers do, how they give the children a sense of home, is incredibly important work. For children are our future, and people who take care of them are a precious gift.

DOK Industry Awards

DOK Co-Pro Market

Saxon Award for the Best Documentary Project by a Female Director

5,000 €

The prize is donated by: Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism (SMWK)

Oh, Heart Don't Be Afraid

Ana Kvichidze

Georgia, Germany

Jury

Anna Berthollet

Themba Bhebhe

Eleni Chandrinou

Unifrance Doc Award

along with subtitling services sponsored by TitraFilm and a Unifrance membership for its French producer

The prize is donated by: Unifrance

Bitter Seed

Camélia Gadhgadhi

France, Algeria

Produced by

Antoine Goldet-Marciano (Amok Films)

Jury

Anna Berthollet

Themba Bhebhe

Eleni Chandrinou

DOK Preview Germany

D-Facto Motion Works-in-Progress Prize

along with post-production services valued at 10,000 €

The prize is donated by: D-Facto Motion GmbH

Curtains

Alina Cyranek

Germany

DOK Short n' Sweet

Square Eyes Festival Consultation Award

along with a tailor-made consultation on festival strategy by Square Eyes

The prize is donated by: Square Eyes

Hypnagogy

Paula Ábalos Santibáñez

Chile