

Brotherhood is the best Czech documentary at Ji.hlava IDFF 2021

The 25th edition of the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival honored 9 Czech films within the awards ceremony held on Saturday evening. Francesco Montagner's *Brotherhood* conquered the Czech Joy competition, and also won the prize best cinematography. Special mention of the Czech Joy competition went to Zuzana Piussi's *Ordeal* and *Preparations for Film T.* by debut director Milan Klepikov.

Celebrated documentary debut of Francesco Montagner, *Brotherhood*, won the Czech Joy national competition of the festival. Captivating documentary set in a small village in the middle of the Bosnian mountains, tells a story of three adolescent sons of a radical Salafi preacher, who have to face their father's sentence for terrorism, question their beliefs and seek different paths for their future.

The film is produced by Pavla Janoušková Kubečková (for production) and co-produced by Nadia Trevisan of the Italian company Nefertiti Film, Czech Television and FAMU. In Ji.hlava, *Brotherhood* was also awarded the prize for best cinematography which was handed over to the DOP Prokop Souček.

Special Mention of the Czech Joy section went to two docs: *Ordeal* and *Preparation for Film T.* While *Ordeal*, directed by Zuzana Piussi and produced by Vít Janeček for both VIRUSfilm (SK) and D1film (CZ), recapitulates the last ten years of the Slovak political scene, Milan Klepikov's *Preparations for Film T.* looks at the end of the world as defined by the poet Petr Král, in production of Martin Vandas & Antonie Dědečková of MAUR film.

Furthermore, editor Jana Vlčková was honored for her work on film *Out in Force*, Viera Marinová received the award for Best Sound Design she made for *Love, Dad*, and Student Jury awarded *Leaving Beginnings Behind* by Linda Kallistová Jablonská (produced by Jana Brožková, Zdeněk Holý, Dušan Mulíček of Vernes).

This year's Audience Award went to directors Tomáš Etzler & Adéla Špaljová and producer Jan Macola of Mimesis Film for their documentary *Heaven*, which provides an insight into the social system of the world's most populous country.

The best Czech experimental documentary, winner of Fascinations: Expmntl.cz section, is *Beautiful Solution* by FAMU student Eliška Cílková who made a short film poem about pesticides.

Last but not least, one of the Special Mentions of the Testimonies competition went to Vitaly Mansky's celebrated documentary *Gorbachev. Heaven*, which is on the Czech side co-produced by Hypermarket Film and Czech Television.

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